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GOING UP?

How safe are VT's wind turbine elevators?

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BY JEN VAUGHN & PAMELA POLSTON

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Dion's keys to success PAGE 24

GREAT LENGTHS

VT adventurer hits the trail PAGE 32

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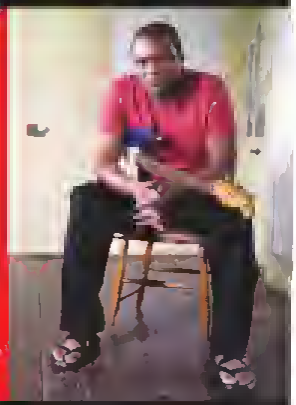
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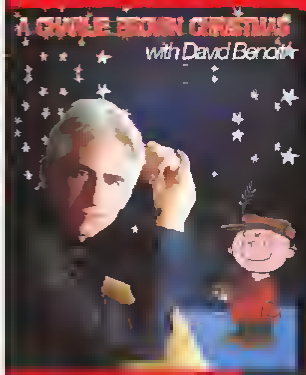
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Tom Wicker, 1926-2011
Ruth Stone, 1915-2011

Two of Vermont's greatest wordsmiths died in the past two weeks: journalist Tom Wicker and poet Ruth Stone.



Tom Wicker who died on November 25 worked for the *New York Times* before retiring and moving to Rochester. He wrote the lead *Times* story on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and observed, firsthand, the Attica Prison Rebellion. He later wrote a book about it.

Writer Kevin J. Kelley interviewed Wicker in 2002 ("Wicker's Word: A former *Times* man and presidential observer weighs in on world — and Vermont — events," 1/9/02). Wicker explained how Attica had shaped his views. He told Kelley that witnessing police kill 29 prisoners and 10 hostages demonstrated to him that "the state was not as benign as I had thought."

After that, Wicker said, he was always aware of the potential for the state to abuse its power. "At one level, there's the arrogance of the guy behind the counter where you get your driver's license. Take that up the line," he warned, "and you get to [then attorney general] Ashcroft."

Find these stories about Wicker and Stone online in the *Seven Days* archives, at sevendaysvt.com.

Ruth Stone passed away at her home in Ripton on November 19. Stone penned 13 books of poetry and received numerous awards, including, in 2002, the National Book Award for *In The Next Galaxy*.

In 2000, writer and former *Seven Days* designer Samantha Hunt reviewed Stone's 1999 collection, *Ordinary Words*, in the paper ("A Life of Letters," 1/12/00). The book earned the Vermont poet a National Book Critics Circle award.

In 2002, Cathy Resmer wrote about Stone and her literary progeny — her daughters Phoaba and Abigail and some of her grandchildren, are writers ("Mother Tongue: For the Stones of Vermont, poetry is all in the family," 5/22/02).

Author Grace Paley, who died in 2007, told Resmer, "Ruth Stone is a wonderful poet, really one of the finest poets in our country. There's no forced feeling in her work. It's always clear, it's sort of very clear water out of a deep well."

Resmer's article includes the poem "Curtains," addressed to Stone's husband, Walter, who killed himself in 1959. At the end of the poem, Stone writes: "I want to dig you up and say look, / it's like the time remember / when I ran into our living room naked / to get rid of the fire inspector / See what you miss by being dead?"

Looking for the newsy blog posts? Find them in Local Matters, on p. 17.

facing facts

CAMPING COST

Compared to other "occupied" cities, Burlington's protest was cheap: a couple thousand in police overtime. Nobody's getting rich *here*, folks.

WARM & FUZZY

Vermonters donated more than 1000 winter coats for the population served by Sweetwaters' annual T-giving dinner. The perfect side dish.

CHECK AND BALANCE?

The Vermont Supreme Court says state police could be liable for failing to check on an elderly woman who died of hypothermia. Chilling.

FREAKY FRIDAY

Is it really worth staying up all night to be first in line to buy an Xbox? At least nobody got pepper-sprayed here.

FACING FACTS COMPILED BY SEVEN DAYS EDITORS

46k

That's how many shoppers visited the University Mall in South Burlington on Black Friday, according to Vermont Public Radio.

TOP FIVE

MOST POPULAR IT[illegible]

1. **Movie Review "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1"** by Margot Harrison. Vampire sex and part-human babies are the orders of the day in the latest Twilight flick.
2. **"Funeral Pie"** by Meghen Dewald. Slate.com linked to this 2008 piece about the classic Pennsylvania Dutch dessert.
3. **"Just Chute Me"** by Sarah Tuff. Looking for a warm, sunny respite this winter? Check out Jay Peak's new Pump House indoor water park.
4. **Sida Dishes "They're Not Chicken"** by Corin Hirsch. Restaurant chain Chick-fil-A attempts to block a federal trademark for Eat More Kale. Yeah, because fast-food chicken and a leafy green vegetable are so easy to mix up.
5. **"House on Fire"** by Dan Bolles. From Bonjour Hi! to 2K Deep, electronic dance music ignites the Burlington club scene.

tweet of the week:

@madworny

People already trying to sneak onto #btvmayor list. My guess:@ btv_dems: construct veri table #ArtiansWall to keep out barbadians



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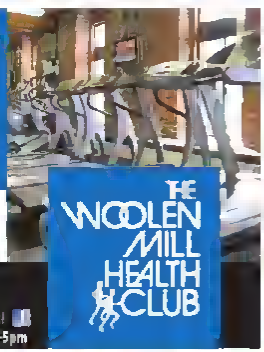
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FEEDback

READER REACTION TO RECENT ARTICLES

'TOONED OUT

[The cartoon] 'Bill the Cockroach' is not funny. It has not been funny since it began appearing in your publication, and I feel it merely detracts from the otherwise awesome spread. Surely there is another artist out there to fill this humorless void.

John O'Brien
FLETCHER

TINY TIM'S BIOGRAPHER RESPONDS

[Re "Uke Power," November 2] As the author of the forthcoming authorized biography of Tiny Tim, *Eternal Troubadour: The Improbable Life of Tiny Tim*, and having worked on two Tiny Tim releases, *I've Never Seen a Straight Banana* and *Lost and Found Vol. 1*, I find [GuitarSam owner Kevin] Crossett's assertion that Tiny "turned the ukulele backward" and that he had to "wait 'til people outgrew his memory" to be completely ridiculous.

Tiny Tim was a walking encyclopedia of music spanning from the 1800s up to the 1990s. He had a vast array of singing voices and was capable of performing virtually any genre of music. The fact that he was perceived as a novelty act is no fault of his own, and the onus of any stigma that may have become attached to the ukulele is not on him.

Many recent articles about neo-ukers are rife with attempts to disassociate the ukelele from Tiny Tim. I ask these people: Would any other hit record in 1968 have featured a ukulele if not for Tiny Tim? No. Second: If the newfound atmosphere surrounding the ukulele is as lighthearted and fun as described in this article, why then is this silly little instrument taken so seriously? The only thing that's backward is the evaluation of Tiny's legacy by the neo-ukers.

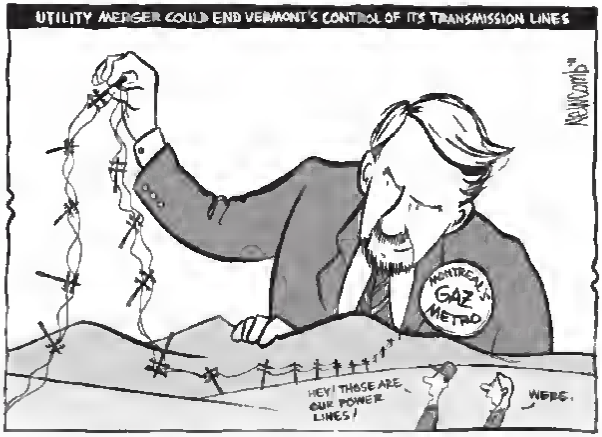
Contrary to what this article says, no one has outgrown Tiny's memory. He still has a strong and dedicated following around the world. Some basic research on the author's part would have revealed that.

Justin A. Martell
NEW YORK, NY

SHOT IN THE DARK

I'd love to see Ken Picard tell the other side of the story ["Health Care Providers Take a Shot at Increasing Childhood Immunizations," November 2]! Since one-third of all parents voice some concerns about vaccine safety, I am surprised the article ended up so biased and pro-vaccine. He describes the "refuseniks" or those who choose not to inoculate their children, as "highly educated, well-read parents." So where are they getting their information? If they are highly educated and well read, then they must be basing their decision on something other than "junk science." Please don't tell me that Ken Picard actually believed that the presence of pharma giants Merck and Eli Lilly at this conference was *not* a conflict of interest. Maybe Ken Picard was sent to just cover the

TIM NEWCOMB



conference, but he uncovered more of a story than he actually reported. I'd expect that from mainstream news outlets, but from *Seven Days*?

Catherine Klarich
MARSHFIELD

STICKS AND STONES

In a recent article ["Barre v. Waterbury: Two Towns Duke It Out for Vermont's Displaced Workers," November 23], Andy Bromage wrote about the exciting possibility of a new state office complex in Barre City. Unexpectedly, Bromage also wrote about a popular community art project in this way: "Aside from a few granite sculptures, the parcel is just a patch of grass and gravel."

Alternatively, an article published by Kevin J. Kelley ["New Sculpture Garden Evokes Barre's Rock-Solid Past," September 28] honored the tradition of stone sculpture in Barre and the exciting, contemporary works created by local studio artists that are currently on display in a vacant lot — now a temporary sculpture park.



Mayor Thom Lauzon

The two articles seem to be light-years apart. I was startled that an outstanding group of sculptures made by local artists would be described in such an offhand manner by Bromage.

Sue Higby
BARRE CITY

Higby is the director of Barre's Studio Place Arts. She designed and curated the sculpture park in Depot Park.

WATERBURY, PLEASE

Hey, Barre Mayor Lauzon and Gov. Shumlin: I'm one of the displaced state workers ["Barre v. Waterbury: Two Towns Duke It Out for Vermont's Displaced Workers," November 23]. I loved working in Waterbury. I loved its beauty and friendliness. I felt like a part of the town, and after the flood I volunteered my time to help there. Not that anybody seems to care much what we displaced state workers think about where we should be located, but let me tell you this: If I get relocated to Barre, your merchants are not getting a cent of my money, if I can help it. I won't eat in restaurants there. I won't shop there. I will tell others not to eat or shop there. I'm not for sale. I want to go home. I want to go back to Waterbury.

Seth Steinzor
SOUTH BURLINGTON

WHOSE NATURAL RESOURCES?

[Re "Occupy Lowell Mountain? Despite Court Order, Opponents Camp Near GMP Blasting Zone," October 19]: There is something far more deadly than the spruce budworm, the emerald ash borer and acid rain that is destroying the forests of our Green Mountains. I am perplexed trying to understand why various state agencies will spend millions of tax dollars to combat worms and beetles, to ensure the health of our deer herd, and to ensure the health of our rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands, and yet, there is hardly anyone who is willing to stop the current culprit.

The governor, his administration and his international corporate chums are rapidly destroying our natural resources in the name of public good for projects that are poorly planned and economically unsound. With minimal regard for our natural resources — resources that our state agencies are empowered to protect on our behalf — they plan to develop additional industrial wind turbine sites across the state.

Stop the further destruction of our finite resources due to corporate greed. Let the people of Vermont — not the governor and the appointed Public Service Board members — decide the fate of our natural

FEEDBACK »P.22

FULL DISCLOSURE

State Sen. Tim Ashe (D/P-Chittenden), a candidate in the Burlington mayoral race, is the domestic partner of *Seven Days* publisher and coeditor Paula Routly. Routly is not assigning or editing stories or columns about Burlington politics for the duration of the campaign. *Seven Days* staffer Andy Bromage now has that role.

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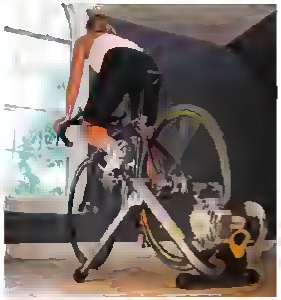
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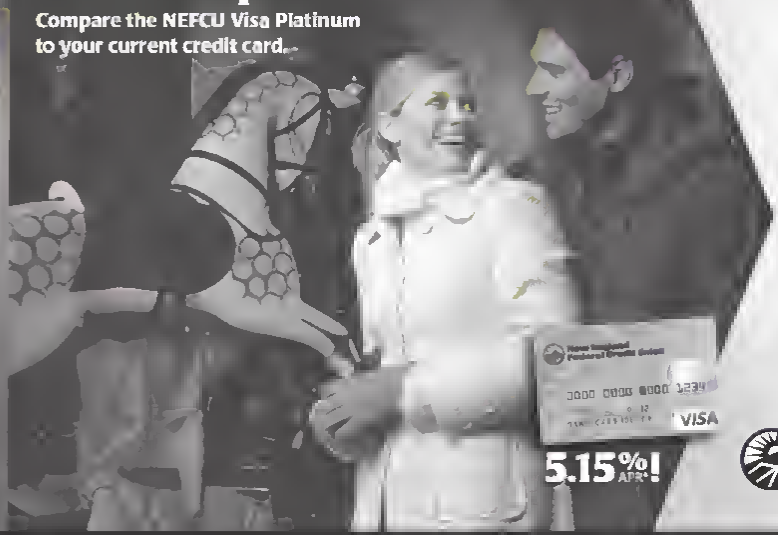
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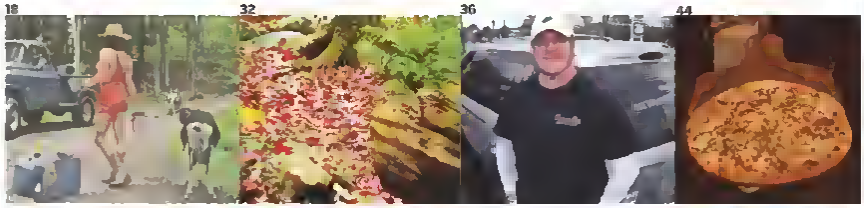
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The MAGNIFICENT 7

MUST SEE, MUST DO THIS WEEK

COMPILED BY CAROLYN FOX



THURSDAY 1

Old Souls

Dwight Ritcher brings the guitar skills. Nicole Nelson a bit of divadom and what the *Boston Phoenix* calls "a voice for the ages." Together as **DWIGHT & NICOLE** (pictured) they produce honeyed melodies from their rambles through folk, blues, soul and whatever genre calls to them. Hear it at Nectar's on Thursday.

SEE CLUB SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 74

FRIDAY 2

Chill Factor

It's getting blustery outside, but **MOIRA SMILEY & VOCO** break through the front with "A Winter Gust of Song," a warm and spirited seasonal tour blowing into UVM's Lane Series this week. The holiday concert includes American folk numbers about stars and evergreens, as well as songs of celebration from Eastern Europe. As long as we're not reckin' around the Christmas tree just yet, we're happy.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 56

SATURDAY 3

Music and Lyrics

All bubblegum-pop anthems, ballads and love songs, Burlington's the **SMITTENS** (pictured) charm their way into the BCA Center this Saturday. With special guests Missy Bly and DJ Disco Phantom in tow, the super-sweet show includes infectious tracks from the five-piece outfit's upcoming full-length album, *Believe Me*.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 59

SATURDAY 3

Away We Glow

It may be called the **RIVER OF LIGHT LANTERN PARADE**, but the theme of this luminous procession isn't water. It's flight. Willow and tissue-paper lamps shaped like dragonflies, bumblebees, birds and even a sprawling Chinese dragon flow through the streets of Waterbury in a glow-in-the-dark stroll ending at the town's annual tree lighting.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 57

SATURDAY 3

Home Sweet Home

If there's no place like home for the holidays, Paul Besaw's dance/theater work ***SELF-ADDRESSED*** proves particularly timely. The choreographer organizes four solo and group works related to the concept of home. Clare Byrne and Selene Colburn are among the collaborators in dances titled with house numbers — and in one case, "address unknown."

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 57

FRIDAY 2-SUNDAY 4

Fest Forward

Craft bazaars are easy to come by this time of year, but there's far more than unique handcrafts at the annual **VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**. A celebration of diversity, this affair goes global with a packed lineup of ethnic foods, imported goods and entertainment. Where else will Chinese dance and martial arts take the stage after West African drumming?

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 55

ONGOING

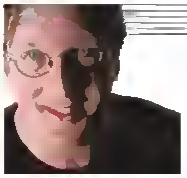
It's a Small World

Height does not equal weight in Edgewater Gallery's second annual show of small works, "**SHORT STORIES.**" Twenty-seven artists contribute mini mixed-media pieces — none much taller than a foot — but the subjects and implied narratives make their messages mighty. See why bigger isn't always better now through New Year's Eve.

SEE ART REVIEW ON PAGE 78

everything else...

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Was Ashe Aware? Did Miro Know?

The two Democrats running for mayor of Burlington may differ in style and political pedigree, but they share at least one common experience. Both sat on boards overseeing city projects that have become financial debacles, Burlington Telecom and the Burlington International Airport parking garage.

As a city councilor, state Sen. **TIM ASHE** (D/P-Chittenden) served on the city's Board of Finance when it approved budgets for Burlington Telecom — the municipally owned phone, internet and cable provider that borrowed $17 million from the city's cash pool with no plan for paying it back.

As a member of the Burlington Airport Commission, **MIRO WEINBERGER** voted in favor of building a $14.5 million parking garage without firm financing in place to pay for it — a plan that's forced the city to borrow money at a higher cost to taxpayers.

Did the mayoral hopefuls sufficiently scrutinize these city projects before they went awry?

Yes and no.

Weinberger has been critical of Ashe's complicity in the BT financial scandal. Yet Weinberger and the airport commission voted multiple times — often with conditions that went unheeded by city hall — to expand the airport's garage. He did so even after the airport's bond rating was downgraded in mid-2010 and the commission was left with unanswered questions about the airport's ability to pay off any new debt.

These votes all occurred *after* BT became a political and fiscal shit show.

To his credit, in June 2010, Weinberger raised pointed questions via email to then airport director **BRIAN SEARLES** about whether the airport could truly afford the project. **JONATHAN LEOPOLD**, then Burlington's chief administrative officer, assured the commission the city could finance the project, and the commission again sustained its support.

The commission's go-along-to-get-along attitude changed in April of this year when Weinberger and his colleagues were asked to approve a short-term-financing fix that would refund the city's cash pool $13.5 million. Up until that point, the airport commissioners were unaware the cash pool was the garage project's source of funding. For a moment, it looked like another Burlington Telecom in the making.

The airport commission also learned that a key section from a 2009 feasibility study was withheld. It said that borrowing to build the parking garage could put the airport in jeopardy of taking on too much debt.

"Learning that was breathtaking and it raised the issue to the level of gross fiscal mismanagement for me, and I felt the commission could no longer be a part of it," Weinberger told Fair Game.

> **IT'S NOT 100 PERCENT FOOLPROOF, BUT WE'RE MAKING IT AS TOUGH AS WE POSSIBLY CAN FOR PEOPLE TO GAME THE SYSTEM.**
>
> STEVE HOWARD, CHAIR, BURLINGTON CITY DEMOCRATS

Weinberger won approval from his fellow commissioners to craft a memo laying out the commission's longstanding concerns about the project and how it had been kept in the dark by **MAYOR BOB KISS'** administration. But in the end, after reviewing several drafts, the commission voted 3-2 against issuing the memo.

In late June, Weinberger went directly to the city council to deliver a message that amounted to: Don't blame us, we were duped.

"I felt the council needed to know what had happened in order to come up with a solution to make sure it didn't happen again," said Weinberger.

Weinberger maintains the commission took action to fix a problem it didn't create and has since worked with the airport staff to trim its budget and right-size its finances. On the other hand, Weinberger has openly criticized Ashe for being a "longtime political ally and supporter of Bob Kiss and his management of Burlington Telecom."

Weinberger's dig is largely due to Ashe's November 2009 claim at a Progressive Party convention: "There is no scandal, there is no controversy, and there is no poor health of our municipally owned telecom service. Burlington Telecom is off to a very good start."

These words continue to haunt Ashe, and for good reason: It was clear BT was struggling when he was on the council. So why did he make such sweeping claims?

"My response was a direct rebuttal — and perhaps too emotional — to [Department of Public Service] Commissioner **DAVID O'BRIEN** and Auditor **TOM SALMON**'s claim that something criminal was going on," said Ashe. By November 2009, Leopold had taken responsibility for approving the cash pool withdrawals to prop up BT. No criminal charges were ever filed against city officials, even after investigations by state and federal authorities.

Ashe knew, or should have known, that BT's finances were shaky because he served on the city's Board of Finance from April 2008 to April 2009 — a time when the telecom was sucking millions from the city's checkbook with no clear means to repay it.

In fact, Ashe noted to Fair Game that the finance board tried to fix BT's financial problems by forcing it to create a new business plan. Also, in mid-2008, the board and city council approved a resolution demanding BT only use its own cash to further build out within the city limits.

Despite these actions, no one on the board of finance — Ashe, Democrat **ANDY MONTROLL** or then-Board of Finance chairman Republican **KURT WRIGHT** — raised public alarms about BT's sizable debt to taxpayers. Not even when Montroll and Wright challenged Kiss for his job in 2009.

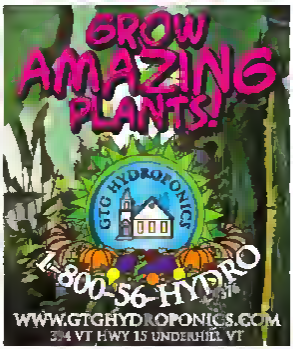
Why not?

"While it was well known that there were financial problems, it was not until the audits came out that we understood just how bad things were," admitted Montroll, who is a telecommunications attorney by trade. "It came to a point when they just couldn't hide it anymore."

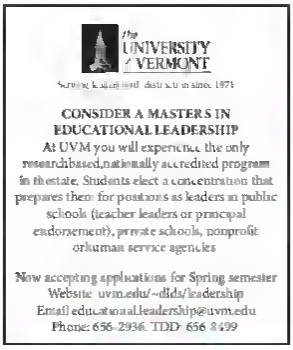
Caucus Clause

The Democrats are making a list and checking it twice.

The "list" released on Monday names everyone who is eligible to vote at the







OPINION

Burlington Democratic Party's mayoral "caucus conclusion" on December 11 — otherwise known as the 1311 most popular people in Burlington. At least through next week.

The Dems' November 13 caucus ended in a 540-540 tie between Tim Ashe and Miro Weinberger — and only those who registered at that event can cast a final ballot.

That official list is expected to grow between now and re-caucus day, as people have already come forward to say their name was erroneously left off the list. And if you thought the caucus voting rules were arcane, wait till you hear the rules for getting added to the list.

To petition onto the voter list, Burlingtonians must file a sworn affidavit saying they registered at the November 13 caucus at Memorial Auditorium. Along with the affidavit, voters need two witnesses to sign sworn affidavits — which need to be notarized.

Requests must be delivered to either City Democratic Party chairman **STEVE HOWARD** or vice chairman **ED ADRIAN** by 5 p.m. on Monday, December 5.

By noon on December 6, city Democrats will post the list of added names online.

At that point, anyone can challenge the additional names — but only until 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 8. Any challenger must also sign a sworn affidavit and have it notarized.

The city party's executive committee will then vet the requests from alleged disenfranchised voters and convene a tribunal to hear challenges. A final, uncontestable list of eligible voters will be posted by high noon on December 10 — the day before the caucus re-do.

Sounds simple. What could possibly (cough) go wrong?

"There's no absolute way to ensure this is foolproof," admitted Howard. "We have to have some element of trust that people will be honest. It's not 100 percent foolproof, but we're making it as tough as we possibly can for people to game the system."

Why do I have this nagging sense that Ashe v. Weinberger could become Vermont's *Bush v. Gore*?

Too Big to Fail?

If **W.B. YEATS** were around to write about the pending merger between Green Mountain Power and Central Vermont Public Service, he might have written this closing line to "Second Coming": *What rough beast, its hours come round at last, slouches toward Montpelier to be born?*

The Vermont Public Service Board — the trio of state regulators charged with rubber-stamping, er, analyzing, the deal — has set an aggressive (by utility standards) hearing schedule to vet this multifaceted, $700-million-plus deal. Testimony is expected to end in less than five months.

If approved, nearly two-thirds of the state's power market will be controlled by GMP's parent company, GazMétro of Quebec, which will wield significant sway over VELCO, the utility that manages the state's power-transmission network.

With such high stakes, state Sen. **VINCE ILLUZZI** (R-Essex/Orleans) and 45 other consumers petitioned the PSB to hire an independent counsel to represent ratepayer interests. Their chief concern is a conflict of interest — or a perceived one — between the Shumlin administration and Green Mountain Power.

Department of Public Service Commissioner **ELIZABETH MILLER**'s husband, **ERIC MILLER**, is a managing partner in the law firm that represents GMP and, as such, derives an indirect income from GMP's payments to his firm.

Two weeks ago, the PSB rejected Illuzzi's request but left open the possibility of an appeal once the DPS weighs in on the merger. Illuzzi plans to meet with Miller before deciding whether to fight on.

At least one of his petition's signatories wants the PSB to appoint a special counsel — period.

In comments filed with the department last week, former DPS public advocate **SAM PRESS** wrote: "If the board passes up this opportunity, it would lend credence to the cynical popular perception that government is an insiders' game rigged to benefit big business." ⑦

(Tim Ashe is the domestic partner of Seven Days publisher and coeditor Paula Routly. See disclosure on page 7.)

Watch Shay discuss Vermont politics this Wednesday on "The 30" on WCAX-TV.

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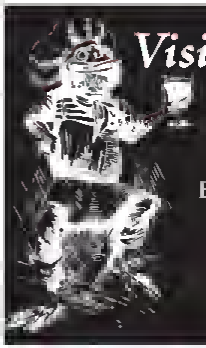


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Why Aren't Vermont's Wind Turbines State Inspected? Ask Green Mountain Power

BY KEN PICARD

Green Mountain Power has become Vermont's favorite whipping boy. Whether it's for blasting on Lowell Mountain to make way for industrial wind development, or its proposed merger with Central Vermont Public Service, the state's largest utility has garnered plenty of critics in the past few months. Sen. Vince Illuzzi (R-Essex/Orleans), who chairs the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, is calling for an independent counsel to investigate the merger.

Unifying detractors is the perception, deserved or not, that GMP is benefiting from a cozy relationship with Gov. Peter Shumlin. Now comes another piece of fodder for the conspiracy mill. The elevators being installed inside the nearly 300-foot wind turbines won't be subject to state inspection. At least, that's how GMP has interpreted the law.

Recently, a licensed elevator mechanic with more than 25 years of experience in the industry visited one of the turbines in the 40-megawatt Sheffield Wind project. He noted that inside the tower is a small, two-person lift that carries workers and their gear 260 feet up from the base of the tower to its nacelle, where the turbine's "guts" are located. He likened it to "a birdcage on a wire."

Since New England's elevator industry is a small and relatively tight-knit community, the mechanic says he was curious to know who installed and inspected these 16 elevators, which are unlike any he had ever worked on. He also wanted to know who is installing, maintaining and inspecting the elevators that are going into the 21 turbines GMP is building on Lowell Mountain. He asked for anonymity in this story for fear using his name might compromise his job.

The elevator mechanic contacted Vermont's Elevator Safety Review Board. The ESRB, which is appointed by the governor and overseen by the Division of Fire Safety — part of the Department of Public Safety — is charged with ensuring that all elevators in the state comply with the industry's electrical, construction and life-safety codes.

The mechanic discovered that Vermont's wind-turbine elevators do not have to be installed by licensed mechanics, nor are they subject to annual inspections. In fact, of the 2800 or so elevators in Vermont, those in wind turbines are the only passenger elevators, other than those in private residences, that *don't* fall under the jurisdiction of the Division of Fire Safety.



COURTESY OF CLIPPER WIND

Wind-turbine elevator

Why not? Apparently, because GMP says they don't. And thus far, no one at the Division of Fire Safety has challenged GMP's claim.

On August 4, GMP attorney Mari McClure sent a letter to the ESRB explaining GMP's position on the matter: "The wind turbines will not be open to the general public and the service lifts installed in the wind turbines will only be utilized by GMP employees and authorized representatives for installation and maintenance. Accordingly, GMP believes that the installation and permitting requirements . . . have not been triggered."

POWER

Nevertheless, a few days later, on August 9, the ESRB voted unanimously to require that all turbine elevators in the state be permitted and installed by licensed elevator mechanics only and inspected annually. However, the ESRB lacks the regulatory teeth to force the issue with GMP.

None of the ESRB members contacted for this story was willing to go on the record about the decision. ESRB chair Bob Patterson, who works for the Department of Public Safety, didn't return calls seeking a comment. Co-chair Bob McLeod, who works for the Vermont Department of Labor, deferred all queries to Bob Sponable, regional manager of the Division of Fire Safety's Barre office.

As Sponable explains, the Division of Fire Safety has jurisdiction over a wide variety of structures in the state, both public and private. As he puts it, "It's easier for me to tell you what we don't cover: single-family, owner-occupied homes and farms. That's it."

Why no oversight of wind-turbine elevators? Sponable says his office has had "discussions at length" on this topic but ultimately agreed with GMP. In effect, because its wind turbines are owned and operated by a regulated utility, he says, any oversight of their operations falls to the Department of Public Service and the Public Service Board, the latter of which issued GMP its Certificate of Public Good on the Lowell project.

Sarah Hofmann is deputy commissioner of the Department of Public Service. As she points out, DPS has authority to examine power plants, equipment, transmission lines, substations and various other properties belonging to utilities. But as for elevators, she admits, "I'm afraid I'm a little out of my element. We definitely do not 'do' elevators."

What about Vermont's workers' compensator system, which protects and compensates employees injured on the job? Director Steve Monahan says that his office has the authority to inspect virtually any workplace or job site in the state, except for those in federal buildings and military installations.

"If an employer was not doing regular inspections and maintenance, yes, that would be of concern to me," Monahan says. However, he adds, unless his agency receives an employee complaint about a wind-turbine elevator, or there's a fatality in one, VOSHA has no reason to go in and inspect them.

Such explanations "defy logic," says Gregg Rogers, national coordinator of the Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund, a partnership between the nation's elevator manufacturers and its technicians. Rogers, who's based in Adel, Iowa, knows something about wind-turbine elevators. Iowa is now the second-largest wind producer in the United States and has scores of turbines dotting its landscape.

Rogers acknowledges that the Department of Public Service and its PSB may regulate utilities. "But an elevator is still an elevator, and it doesn't matter if it's in a nuclear power plant or a wind-turbine tower."

OTHER THAN THOSE IN PRIVATE RESIDENCES, WIND TURBINES HAVE THE ONLY PASSENGER ELEVATORS *THAT AREN'T* INSPECTED BY THE STATE.

That wind towers aren't "public" hardly seems grounds for such an exemption, he notes. Many other ESRB-inspected elevators in Vermont are also closed to the public, including those at Vermont Yankee, the McNeil Generating Station and the hydroelectric dams on the Connecticut River. Electrical inspectors from the Division of Fire Safety routinely inspect the electrical connections on solar arrays, too. Prisons, jails and construction sites all comply with the same elevator-safety rules.

But the elevators in wind turbines are unlike any others found in Vermont, explains GMP spokesperson Dorothy Schnure, and thus need to be installed and maintained by out-of-state experts.

"These are very different from what you'd find in a shopping mall or an office building," she explains. "It's a specialty lift equipment specifically designed for wind turbines ... just like any other specialty equipment we have around our generators."

Rogers acknowledges that wind-turbine elevators are unique. Like the towers they're built in, they occasionally sway in high winds. However, there's nothing inherently unsafe about turbine elevators. As he explains, manufacturers began adding them to wind towers after they found that technicians climbing hundreds of feet up and down ladders day after day were getting burned out within 24 months. With the added cost of training new technicians, he says, "the lift became a viable option."

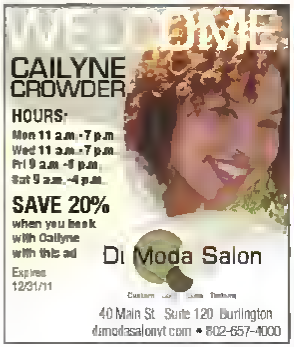
About 27 people are killed in elevator mishaps each year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. However, because this particular aspect of wind power is still in its infancy, Rogers says his organization has yet to compile any accident statistics related to wind turbine elevators. Nevertheless, he says most states require that all elevators be inspected annually and maintained by either licensed or "qualified" elevator mechanics.

Shortly before press time, John Wood, deputy commissioner of Public Safety, issued this statement:

"It has recently come to light that elevators will be installed in the wind-turbines on Lowell Mountain," Wood said. "With the assistance of the Department of Public Service and the Vermont Attorney General's Office, the Department of Public Safety is reviewing if wind turbines are considered public buildings and, subsequently, if the elevators are subject to inspection under the jurisdiction of the Division of Fire Safety."

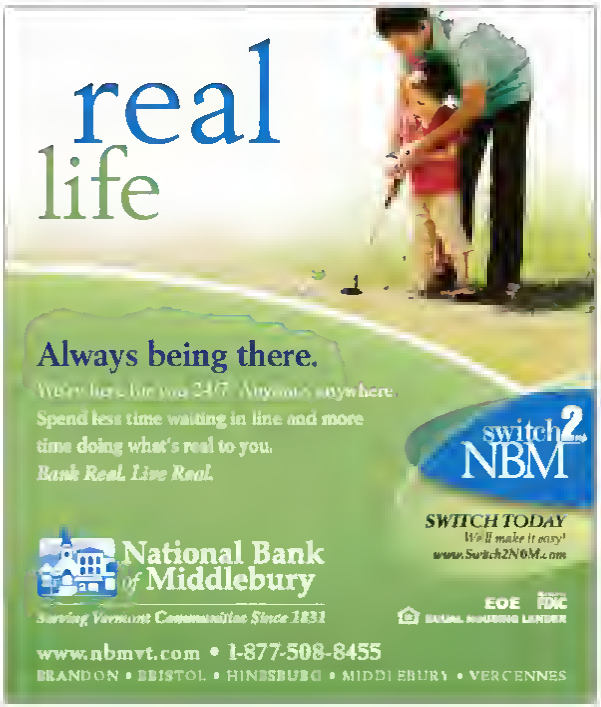
That latest word is welcome news to the Vermont elevator mechanic, who emphasizes that he's neither looking for additional work nor opposed to industrial wind power.

"Yeah, I'm in favor of wind power, 100 percent. But I'm also for elevator safety," he says. "Nobody can survive a 260-foot fall from inside these towers. And if I were an employee there, I'd feel much better knowing that somebody was making sure they're installed and maintained properly." ⑦









New York Times Correspondent David Sanger Analyzes Obama

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

Is there an "Obama Doctrine"?

That's one of the questions David Sanger asks himself as chief Washington correspondent for the *New York Times*. It's also the title of his talk on Wednesday, December 7, at Essex High School.

Sanger is uniquely positioned to observe the 44th president, who, three-quarters of the way through what may turn out to be his sole term in office, remains an elusive, almost enigmatic, figure. Some say it's not entirely clear what he believes in.

Just because he's notched a series of big achievements overseas -- killing Osama bin Laden, assisting in the removal of Muammar Qaddafi, negotiating nuclear cutbacks with Russia and drawing down U.S. troops in Iraq -- doesn't mean Obama is operating in accordance with some strategic template, or "doctrine," as foreign-policy wonks put it. The president's moves abroad can seem confusing at times, if not altogether contradictory.

MEDIA

But Sanger's job is to make sense of them, and the 51-year-old reporter has plenty of experience from which to draw. His 25-year career at the *Times* includes a six-year stint as chief of the paper's Tokyo bureau. He covered economics stories in Japan as well as in New York, while also writing on nuclear proliferation. Sanger was a member of two *Times* teams that won Pulitzer Prizes -- the first for an investigation of the causes of the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster; the second for a series of stories on the Clinton administration's efforts to control American businesses' exports to China.

In Sanger's view, Obama's actions *seem* to point to an underlying doctrine. The president seeks to advance U.S. interests by attacking bothersome but comparatively weak antagonists from a safe distance -- politically for him, and physically for American soldiers. This tactic was applied most clearly in Libya, where the U.S. led the overthrow of Qaddafi "from behind," and more covertly in Iran, where the United States is believed to have joined Israel in launching a reportedly devastating cyber attack on Iran's nuclear program. The doctrine -- if there is one -- can also be discerned in the cases of Somalia and Yemen. Drone-fired missiles have been used in both those countries to kill individuals the United States identified as terrorist leaders.

Obama seems perplexed, however, about how to handle a foreign crisis in which even indirect U.S. force could have destabilizing consequences. Syria is currently the foremost example of a regional linchpin where the "doctrine" doesn't apply.

In a phone interview, Sanger discussed these and other issues he'll cover next week in Vermont.

SEVEN DAYS: You're speaking in Vermont on the topic of an Obama Doctrine. So is there one?

DAVID SANGER: While the president hasn't articulated a doctrine, you can intuit one by piecing together what's happened in the past three years.

If you look at what he said while campaigning, you'd think his approach would be one of engagement [with U.S. antagonists]. But he discovered pretty quickly that engagement doesn't work too well -- with North Korea and Iran, for instance.

Obama knew, however, that the country is in a time and in a political mood in which it's not possible to keep fighting significant land-based conflicts around the world. The budget crunch, on top of everything else, means it's really not an option.

And so he's turned to low-casualty, effective technology options, of which drones are obviously one. Cyber warfare -- like the Stuxnet virus used against Iran -- is another, but Obama hasn't discussed it much.

SD: Doesn't this approach make it too easy for the United States to intervene around the world? Isn't it too antiseptic?

DS: It is a very significant change from the way conflicts have been fought in the past. But you could say it's also antiseptic to be dropping bombs from 30,000 feet. Obama's approach can make low-level intervention easier, but it may not be useful in some cases.

Could you have defeated Saddam Hussein this way? If you had done in Iraq what you did in Libya would that have worked? Maybe, maybe not.

SD: You've written in pieces for the *Times* that an Obama Doctrine doesn't apply in certain situations.

DS: Syria is a good place to look now to see that. Obama hasn't done what he did in Libya, even though the numbers being killed in Syria are much greater. The approach he's been taking has been successful in a narrow group of cases. But it hasn't stopped Iran's nuclear program or North Korea's.



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

David Sanger

SD: Obama's foreign policy will probably be seen, on balance, as pretty successful, especially the killing of Bin Laden. Do you think that will be useful to him in his re-election campaign, or won't it matter much?

DS: It will certainly be of some benefit to him, but not as much as he would hope. Will it be enough to turn the tide of an election that's going to be decided mainly on economic issues? That's hard to know.

SD: Do you think Obama will be reelected?

DS: I have no idea. It will primarily have to do with the performance of the economy.

However, I do think that in policy terms he's done pretty well, while in communication terms he hasn't mastered how to go out and make his case to the people, even though he can obviously be quite eloquent.

[George W.] Bush did go out and explain about the threats he saw. You can think of Bush what you want, but people throughout the country did at least understand where he wanted to go.

SD: Let me ask you about working at the *Times*. Is it as stressful now as in the recent documentary *Page One: Inside the New York Times*, which shows reporters anxious about their jobs due to the changes brought about by the Internet?

DS: The demands of the *Times*' web edition has completely changed the nature of what we do. The web edition is our primary edition these days, as it should be. We reach a much larger audience as a result.

It does speed up the tempo considerably. It can be harder to do analytical-type pieces when you're constantly in the hour-to-hour cycle. It can also lead to a greater danger of inaccuracies, though we do have a system for preventing that.

SD: I've got a Vermont question. You've been watching Washington players for a long time, so what do you think of our two senators?

DS: I've got a house in Weston, so I actually come at this as a part-time Vermonter, not just a Washington reporter.

Bernie Sanders is certainly a unique figure, but I don't know him well, so I can't speak to his effectiveness.

Senator Leahy has taught me a lot, especially about the world of intelligence. He's explained to me how the people in that world think about some of the issues I write about.

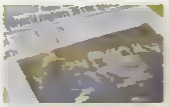
SD: So you see Leahy as a kind of wise statesman?

DS: Oh, yes. He's an example of the old-school senator, a member of an institution that was very different in years past than it is today. ⑦

New York Times chief Washington correspondent David Sanger will talk about President Obama's foreign policy at Essex High School on December 7 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Info, 878-6955.

news

EXCERPTS FROM BLURT, THE SEVEN DAYS STAFF BLOG



Who's That Pictured With Beth Robinson in the *Free Press*? Her Wife!

by Paula Routly

A photo on the front page of Tuesday's *Burlington Free Press* captured a lighthearted moment from the swearing-in ceremony of Vermont Supreme Court Justice Beth Robinson. The 46-year-old lawyer and gay rights advocate is responsible for the fact that same-sex couples can marry in Vermont.

To Robinson's left is Gov Peter Shumlin, the guy who appointed her to the bench and for whom she has served as legal counsel for the past year.

To Robinson's right? The picture shows a smiling woman — with a camera — sharing a laugh with Robinson. But the caption doesn't identify her. Not a whisper. And she is, of course, Robinson's wife: Dr. Kym Boyman.

Normally such an omission would be no big deal. Standard, even. But the irony of this one can't be ignored.

Robinson has spent most of her professional life trying to get Vermont to recognize gay and lesbian relationships. She made a convincing case for civil unions before the Vermont Supreme Court in 1999. Then she masterminded the lobbying effort that led the legislature to pass same-sex marriage into law in 2009.

That Robinson's own partner remains nameless in a photo that otherwise perfectly documents her personal odyssey proves there's still work to be done.

If that was *Mr. Robinson* sitting next to Vermont's newest supreme court justice, do you think a copy editor would have tracked down the photographer to confirm his identity? No doubt.

Justice for all? Not yet.

To read the full stories, go to sevendaysvt.com

Mountain "Open House" Aims to Break Big Wind on Lowell Mountain



by Ken Picard

Watching politics is akin to watching sausage making — i.e., not for the squeamish. Opponents of industrial wind development on Vermont's ridgelines are hoping the view from atop Lowell Mountain will persuade anyone still undecided on the issue.

That's certainly been the effect on Steve Wright, the former Vermont Fish & Wildlife commissioner who's become a leading opponent of Green Mountain Power's Kingdom Community Wind project, a 21-turbine industrial wind farm now under construction.

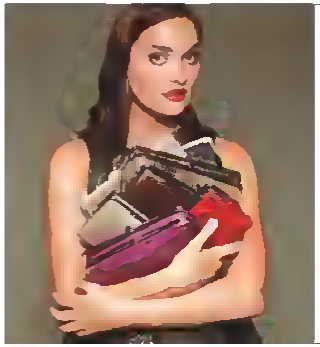
"I've seen enough pictures of the site to make me nauseated," says Wright, 69, who can no longer make the hike due to health issues. "Frankly, I can't even look at the pictures anymore."

This weekend, opponents dubbed the "Lowell Mountain Occupiers" are inviting others to make the 45-minute climb — and decide for themselves. On Sunday, December 4, the group is holding its second "Mountaintop Open House" adjacent to the construction zone. They will meet at the Albany Community School at 11:30 a.m. and carpool to the base of the mountain. Following a short informational talk, individual groups will hike up the mountain at their own pace.

Although the event is being billed as a "nonjudgmental, nonconfrontational" event — no civil disobedience or anti-wind advocacy is scheduled — no one expects GMP president Mary Powell to greet hikers at the top to debate the benefits of industrial wind.

Does Wright expect people will see the environmental impact firsthand and become as nauseated as he is?

"Well, that would be an accomplishment," he says. "But it's broader than that. Many people are unfamiliar with the level of [destruction]. So, our purpose is to show people that effect, and let them make up their own minds."



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A Vermont Photographer Greets 2012 With Farm Femmes and Other Saucy Gals

ART

BY PAMELA POLSTON

The young woman stands at the side of a dirt road holding her thumb out to an approaching vintage Ford pickup. With her other hand she firmly grasps a rope that's tied to the neck of a goat, who's placidly chewing on a mouthful of grass. The woman stands at an angle that reveals a profile of bare breast underneath her one-piece pinafore shorts. She is otherwise clad in cowboy boots and a frayed straw hat. Oh, and next to her on the road is a small blue suitcase with a Hawaii sticker and a blue plastic gasoline jug, its bright-yellow spout jauntily erect.



Emily Sacco: April

COURTESY OF HEATHER GRAY

The scene is, in a word, provocative, and it's the cover and March image in Vermont photographer **HEATHER GRAY**'s 2012 calendar. (Apparently not content with the opportunities 12 months afford, Gray includes 11 "bonus" photos at the end.) The 9-by-12-inch calendar is a first for the East Hardwick-based artist, though her photos have been exhibited locally and internationally for several years, and she's been on Etsy.com since 2008.

On her Etsy site, Gray explains her aesthetic: "Heather Gray's work explores the intersection of photography and performance. Her images represent the notion of identity as always fluid, contextual and produced by codes deeply buried in the fabric of culture."

That artspeak is true. But you might also simply call Gray's "pinups" witty, sexy and flirty — not to mention staged with theatrical flair. In recent years, her "redneck chic" models have been placed in decidedly rural settings — with farm equipment, on country roads, in sugar shacks, that sort of thing. She's also devised mother-and-child kitchen scenes that could rouse the suspicions of Protective Services. But not in the way Sally Mann's nude pics of her children did; instead, think naked mom curled up inside the fridge.

The shots in Gray's new calendar are more diverse: some interiors, such as a small-town grocery, a cheese cave, a candy shop. Most were shot outdoors, though. A model clad in a gold lamé jumpsuit reclines in the scoop of a crane over huge mounds of brown soil, a long-haired woman sits backward, bareback — and bare breasted — on a horse in a grassy meadow, a woman assumes a, well, stimulating position on a child's rocking horse near a herd of uninterested cows.

Sexiness is a constant in these pictures, yet Gray's temptresses seem less interested in their appeal to others than in simply flaunting their self-assured awesomeness. On her own website, Gray notes that she's interested in "costume, identity, landscape, family relationships, displacement and narrative." Like any female in this culture, she is keenly aware of the ways women and their bodies are typically presented, and she plays

Fair Trade Textiles From Creative Women Grow Global Connections

BY AMY LILLY

If you've ever spotted a handwoven item in a high-end store — say, a tablecloth made of Ethiopian cotton at Erica Tanov in New York City, or a Bolivian alpaca throw at Anthropologie — there's a fair chance it got there by way of **ELLEN DORSCH** of Grand Isle.

Dorsch opened her Burlington textile-import business, **CREATIVE WOMEN**, eight years ago. Since then, she has carved out an upscale U.S. market for beautiful textiles individually woven by women in Ethiopia, Swaziland, Afghanistan, Senegal and Mali. Last spring, she expanded to South America. Dorsch currently imports from three Ethiopian weaving businesses and one each in Bolivia and Peru.

CRAFT

Creative Women's Chace Mill studio is filled with these women's work, from napkins to hand towels to beach blankets. This weekend, at the annual holiday studio sale, all will be available for "less than reasonable prices," Dorsch promises with a smile.

Creative Women's products have changed over the years. Dorsch was originally inspired during a trip to Ethiopia to provide women weavers with steady employment by finding Western markets for their traditional designs. Gradually, though, she moved toward collaborating with the weaving businesses on designs Westerners want to buy.

"One of my important missions was to create jobs," Dorsch explains. "Are you going to do that making things that sell or making things that don't sell?"

Today, the rows of folded items filling the small studio's shelves are mostly on the elegantly plain side, in muted colors or white with subtle accents, only some discontinued pillowcases bear traditional designs. The airy, Hamptons-like look sets Creative Women apart from what Dorsch calls the "more ethnic" flavor of the Mennonite enterprise Ten Thousand Villages, of which a branch recently appeared on Church Street. Creative Women is closer to the muted tones of West Elm. (That giant home-décor catalog company recently called Dorsch to propose a deal, but it fell through.)



Tablecloth made from Ethiopian cotton

COURTESY OF CREATIVE WOMEN

Dorsch's collaborative approach has had the biggest impact in Ethiopia. Her largest producer, Sabahar in Addis Ababa, had just three weavers when Dorsch began importing their textiles in 2003. It now has 70 full-time employees.

All are fairly treated, Dorsch maintains. "We only work with businesses who pay their employees fairly, and have

with that. But Gray subverts the usual objectifying subtexts by making fun of them, making them her own.

For example, "Miss February," modeled by Jaquelyn "Nutty Steph" Rieke, has nude atop a glass display case filled with chocolate (customers may never see Rieke's Middlesex shop, or her, the same way again). Legs crossed, she's wearing kicky pumps and a pile of chocolate bars across her midsection. A strategically placed hand covers her breast. Rieke glances sidelong at the camera with a devilish grin, holding a large rectangle of chocolate to her red lips. You can imagine both photographer and model giggling wickedly, perhaps over a cup of hot chocolate, after the shoot.

In fact, there's a strong girlfriend sensibility in these photos, which is ironic because pinup images, such as the scantily clad "Vargas girls" of the 1950s, have always been about (heterosexual) male ogling. Not that Gray's images won't appeal to men — *au contraire*. Who doesn't like to see girls just having fun? And who doesn't need a calendar on which to scribble hot dates? ⑦

GRAY'S "PINUPS" ARE WITTY, SEXY AND FLIRTY

— NOT TO MENTION STAGED WITH THEATRICAL FLAIR.

Heather Gray Fine Art Photography calendar is available at select local outlets and at etsy.com/shop/hgphotography. Gray's work will be exhibited at Salaam Boutique in Burlington, December 2 through January 3. Reception Friday, December 2, 6–8 p.m. photosbyheathergray.com

ONE OF MY IMPORTANT MISSIONS WAS TO CREATE JOBS. ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT MAKING THINGS THAT SELL OR MAKING THINGS THAT DON'T SELL?

ELLEN DORSCH

decent working conditions within their own culture."

She depends on the Fair Trade Federation for many of these assurances, but Dorsch also observes working conditions on her annual visits. "I don't know how much is paid to the workers," she says, "but I see that tea break occurs twice a day, the bathrooms are clean, the women all wear smocks."

The holiday sale is not the only chance to get Creative Women products outside SoHo. They're also sold at Vermont Farm Table in Burlington and Procopio in Woodstock, and the studio is open for retail business every Wednesday afternoon. But this weekend's sale includes seconds, discontinued lines and new pieces priced at wholesale — far less than they would be at high-end stores.

And shoppers can rest easy knowing the women weavers have already been compensated for their work. "I pay them for everything up front," Dorsch assures, "so whatever doesn't sell on these shelves is my loss." ⑦

Creative Women Seventh Annual Holiday Studio Sale at the Chace Mill, Burlington, on Friday, December 2, noon–6 p.m., and Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. creativewomen.net



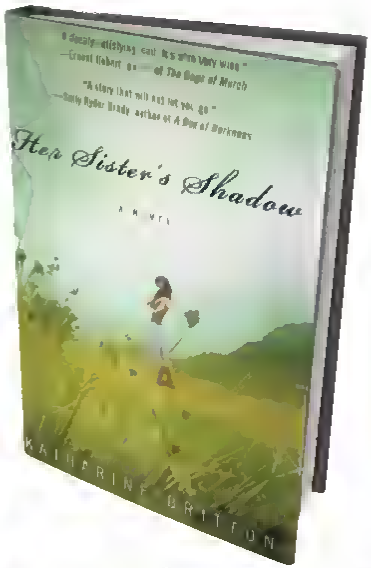






Quick Lit

BY MARGOT HARRISON



The cover of Norwich author KATHARINE BRITTON's debut novel, *Her Sister's Shadow*, might as well say "women's commercial fiction" all over it. A damsel in a filmy skirt prowls the misty seaside, her posture suggesting she's contemplating difficult life choices, or perhaps a new femme-product line.

But, while Britton tells a story that Nicholas Sparks fans may enjoy, her novel isn't flimsy fare about a sylph in bossy perfectionist and sailing champ who raised her younger sisters with an iron hand, now a 67-year-old widow struggling with incipient dementia.

Britton's storytelling and descriptive powers come most alive in her flashbacks to the late '60s. The details of the four Niles sisters' country-club-bohemian lifestyle (their father was a Boston brahmin, their mother an artist) are sharply observed, and their coastal home, jam-packed with undiscarded oddments and shrouded in mist and memories, soon becomes a character in its own right. A site of family tragedies, it seems to exert an enchantment over Bea and Randall, who settled down among the ghosts and never left, and, from afar, over Lilli, who fears to return.

Britton shows how a few years' worth of powerful, unresolved conflicts can cast a shadow over a person's subsequent life; frail as Bea is, the adult Lilli still smarts at her disapproval. But the author also impoverishes Lilli as a character by giving us barely a glimpse of her last four decades. We know she owns a tony AGA range and lives in Hampstead, but not whether she's experienced love or friendship or pleasure in her art that could compete with her early affections. Returning home, she almost seems to be an adolescent coming out of cold storage.

With its moody meditations on the past, the novel may occasionally make readers feel like Charlotte, the most down-to-earth Niles sister — who, when teenage Lilli tries to tell her about her feelings, pats her on the back and says, with gravitas and certainty, "You need a toasted cheese sandwich." Powerful as romantic love is, Britton suggests, the bonds of sisterhood — prosaic advice, cheese sandwiches and all — can endure far longer.

Her Sister's Shadow by Katharine Britton. Berkley Books, 341 pages. $15.


Liza Myers

JIM GERMOND

Washed Out

In the days after Tropical Storm Irene swept through Vermont, artist **LIZA MYERS** thought her gallery Liza Myers Gallery in downtown Brandon had been spared. At the time she was in New Mexico leading Castleton State College students in a semesterlong cultural-immersion program, so she relied on photos and updates from her husband, **JIM GERMOND**. But he didn't share the full extent of the damage to the gallery. In September Myers wrote on her blog, "Miraculously our interior damage was minor. Only an inch or so got in through the side door. I think we should rename our gallery The Ark."

Unfortunately Myers returned to Brandon last week to find the situation much worse than she had anticipated. She and Germond — who ran **JAMES FRAMES** from the building — have decided to close the 8-year-old gallery.

"It's a mess," says Myers. Her initial assessment was correct. The inside of the gallery was largely unharmed. But the water washed away huge chunks of land around the building's foundation, leaving a "five-foot drop" from the back door to the parking lot. "It's literally walking the plank to get in and out," she says.

Myers and Germond, who own the building, did not have flood insurance. They have received some money from the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce's Brand Aid Fund, but Myers says it's not enough to cover repairs. That's why the couple are now renting the top floor of the building — which is still accessible — to the **VERMONT SANDWICH COMPANY**, another Center Street business washed out during Irene.

Even in a town as art friendly as Brandon, running a gallery is risky business, Myers says. She can usually count on fall-foliage crowds for a financial boost, but not this year. "We lost peeper season," she says. "People would walk right past us to look at the chasm" that was once a small park adjacent to the gallery.

Myers and her husband are looking into rebuilding, but in the meantime they're pretty discouraged. "I don't know what I can afford," she says. Before she left for New Mexico, and before Irene, Myers gave up her studio in Brandon's **GRANARY** artist cooperative. She had planned to move back into the basement of her Center Street gallery, which she and Germond had been using for storage and framing. "It was a dream," says Myers. "And it was working."

Now she doesn't know where to go. "I have no place to paint," she says. "no place to do my work." ⑦

MEGAN JAMES

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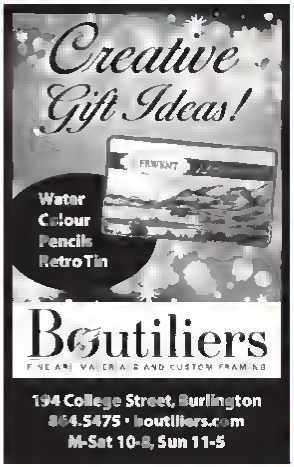
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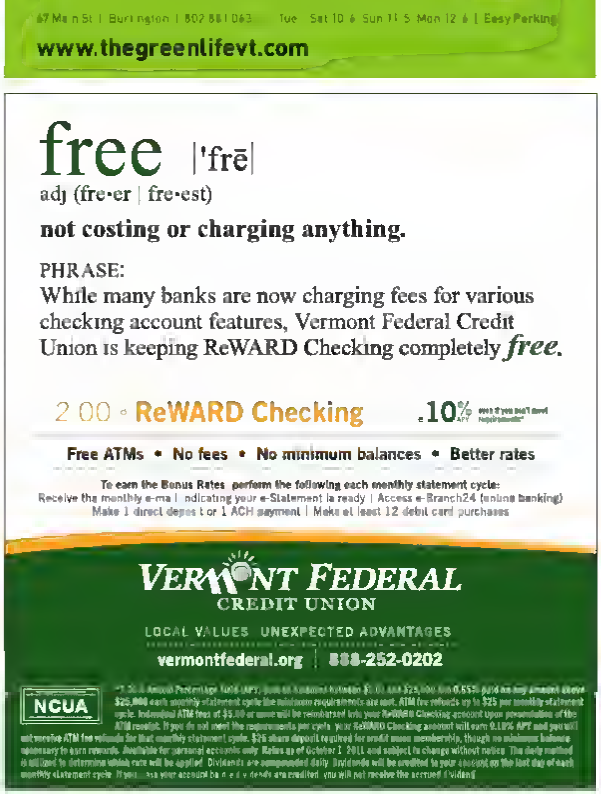
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Feedback « P7

resources. Please contact your elected officials and ask them to end this folly!

Michael Gohl
WOLCOTT

MOURNING THE ALCHEMIST

Dear Tropical Storm Irene: Tonight the devastation of your wrath hit home when I read that the best darn bar in Vermont is gone forever [Side Dishes: "The Magic Is Gone: The Alchemist Pub and Brewery Will Not Reopen," November 23]. In addition to the loss of state offices and all of the business and community that comes with, this town has lost the best gathering place I have found in a state short on "grown-up" establishments. Bless good beer, fine restaurateurs and plans for the future.

Rebecca Agone
WOODBURY

NEW LIFE FOR A LIBRARY

I just wanted to let you know that I think it's great that Jake Jacobson and Jennifer Mills are rehabilitating the old Winooski Library into a usable establishment ["From Library to Living Quarters: A Winooski Landmark is Transformed," November 9]. I like knowing that an empty building is going to be converted into a home and not sitting empty for years while the city pays taxes on it. Awesome job, guys!

Kerry Crowley
WINOOSKI

OFF THE FENCE

I was somewhat on the fence about wind development until reading your letters section [Feedback, November 2]. The letters in favor of big wind got my attention – and now I'm firmly in the opposition camp.

A VPIRG employee expressed logic I found disturbing. He fled Virginia because of mountaintop removal, moving to Vermont where "mountains still mean something to people," he said. But, according to him, the blasting, bulldozing and road building is "saving" our mountains, and the 450-foot metal towers "add" to the view. I am outraged by this idiotic statement.

Another letter writer said that the neighbors of the Lowell project should have just taken the money from GMP and left their home of 40 years, that this was the "morally and ethically correct thing to do." If big wind advocates find it morally and ethically acceptable for big corporations to run people out of their homes — which happens all the time, all over the world — something is terribly wrong with their moral compasses.

Still somewhat on the fence, I visited the Lowell site. What's been done there literally made me sick. I've since learned that the Shumlin administration fast-tracked the regulatory process and cut short the necessary environmental review, just so GMP could begin construction in time to qualify for millions of dollars in federal subsidies.

Vermont's energy policies don't have to be dictated by corporate agendas. The choice doesn't have to be nuclear or big wind or coal. The real solutions involve conservation efforts by individuals — and more importantly industry — along with small-scale publicly owned, locally sourced and operated renewables. We can't save the planet by destroying it. This is the logic of capitalism, and it is dead wrong.

Sara Augeri
WALDEN

OCCUPY FEMINISM?

Judith Levine in "Occupy Wall Street Is Feminist" [Poli Psy, October 26] seems to think the revolution started with feminism. She mistakenly believes that "the closest ancestor of Occupy Wall Street was the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp in Berkshire, England.' Greenham was a single-issue protest — hardly a model of the broad critique of capitalism and plutocracy that OWS represents. The Seneca Women's Encampment might be a better analogy, except that it excluded male supporters and was patronizing of the local community.

She states, "The Occupy Wall Street encampment ... is a feminist phenomenon ... In its group process, nonviolent ethos, aesthetic feel and emotional tenor." Levine, apparently, chooses to ignore the long history of anarchist agitation, which was based on free association, mutualism, and spontaneous nonhierarchical order and reciprocity, and the male pioneers of nonviolent action, from Jesus to Tolstoy, Gandhi, King and César Chávez.

Yes, it's certainly true that "feminism changed the world," but not entirely for the better. As it evolved from a liberation movement into an ideology, it also both ignored and contributed to the victimization of men in our culture. One need look no further than the seminal book by the only man to be elected three times to the board of NOW, Warren Farrell. In his book, *The Myth of Male Power*, he states, "Feminism articulated the shadow side of men and the light side of women but neglected the shadow side of women and the light side of men."

The potential power of OWS is that it transcends easy division of the world into left and right, working class and middle class, feminist and patriarchal. Instead, its message is that we have turned the light of free-market democracy into a nightmare shadow of inequity and injustice and the murder of a hopeful future. We are finally acknowledging that we live not in a patriarchy but in an "umbriarchy" — the rule of the shadow. We are all responsible for letting the light dim and all responsible for turning it back on.

Robert Riversong
WARREN



Island Girl

"Oh, my God," said Brittney, the young woman texting in the backseat of my taxi. "I think this is, like, a booty call! Well, he *is* my boyfriend, so I don't think that counts."

We were on the causeway, slicing through the cold November air en route to North Hero. On a busy weekend night, an out-of-town run like this is generally a net revenue loser — I can make more money flitting around Burlington — but I accepted this fare precisely to escape the hubbub for an hour or two.

"Did you grow up on the islands, Brittney?" I asked, after seeing her place the cellphone back in her bag. I know that texting and talking simultaneously is second nature to one of the digital generation, but addressing her still would have felt like interrupting to me.

"Yup," she said, "I've lived here since I was born. Can you believe it?"

"I can. So where did you go to high school? Island kids get to go to any school they want, do I got that right?"

"Yeah, 'cause there's no high school on the islands. I went to Essex, along with a lot of my friends. It was crazy — there were 24 kids in my graduating eighth-grade class. I went from that to my freshman year at Essex, which had a class of over 400. I was pretty much a stoner all through high school, to tell the truth. My parents divorced when I was 14. That might have had something to do with it, if you know what I mean."

"I do know what you mean. Divorce can be a train wreck for the entire family, particularly the kids. Did you manage to graduate?"

"Oh, yeah — about five years ago. I work as a chef in Alburgh. That's where I met my boyfriend, Jeff. He cooks there, too."

"Sounds like a movie. Love blossoms over the bubbling marinara, something like that?"

"Yeah, exactly like that," Brittney said, chuckling. "But here's the thing. Jeff is moving to Philly in about two weeks. He got a great job offer down there, a real step up for him. So I, like, know that I'm about to have my heart broken. I've seriously fallen for this guy. I shouldn't even be going to his place tonight. When I left my girlfriends in Burlington to jump in your cab, they all thought I was making a mistake. I'm really, like, *torn*."

"Any possibility of you joining him down there?"

"You mean moving? It wouldn't really make a whole lot of sense. I've got a good job up here that I like, and all my family's in Vermont. Family means everything to me."

We reached the town of South Hero. I get up here a lot — more so in the summer, and mostly dropping customers at the ferry. But when the destination is Plattsburgh or another New York town along the northern tier, I get to actually *ride* the ferry. On the crossing, I'm like a 6-year-old, abandoning my customer in the cab to run to the bow. I wave to folks in passing boats, and I've been known to chat with hovering seagulls.

IT'S PROBABLY HEALTHY TO AVOID RELATIONSHIP ADVICE FROM RANDOM MIDDLE-AGED CABDRIVERS.

"Not that everything is perfect with Jeff," Brittney said, suddenly picking up her thread of thought. "We do get along great, but he *is* older than me."

"Really? How much older are we talking about?"

"Actually, he's never told me, but I'm pretty sure he's, like, 35 or 36."

"Well, yeah — that is quite a bit older. But, you know, there aren't really any rules when it comes to love. Every relationship comes with its own set of challenges, right? If it isn't an age difference, it'd just be something else."

In the rearview mirror, I watched Brittney crook her head, considering my idea. She was a comely young woman, with hazel eyes and blond-streaked brown hair. She seemed sturdy and eager, two qualities, it occurred to me, that make for a good cook. In a commercial kitchen, the prima donnas quickly wash out.

"There's another thing, too," I continued, seamlessly slipping into the role of Dr. Phil on Wheels. God help my poor customer. "If you're meant to be with this guy, you'd go with him to Philly. If the pull was that strong, I'd bet you'd do it. The other thing is, maybe the separation will just be temporary, and you'll get together some time and some place down the road, when you're older and wiser."

Brittney, I could see, had tuned me out, and I couldn't blame her. It's probably healthy to avoid relationship advice from random middle-aged cabdrivers.

"No, I couldn't go to Philadelphia," she said, now speaking quietly. "I just couldn't leave my family. A couple years ago, my 3-year-old niece drowned in a swimming pool. She was a beautiful little girl. I had a special connection with her. Anyways, the accident brought the whole family together. I just couldn't leave. I wouldn't want to."

A few miles north of the drawbridge, we took a left and soon arrived at Jeff's house. As she paid the fare, Brittney's eyes were moist. "Maybe continuing to see him is a mistake," she said, "but I can't help myself. It's my heart."

I knew what she meant, and who could fault her? ⑦

"Hackie" is a biweekly column that can also be read on sevendaysvt.com.

To reach Jernigan Pontiac, email hackie@sevendaysvt.com.







Safe at Home

BY KEN PICARD

Eric Dion moves quickly for hours at a time, an unusual trait for someone with his particular expertise. Dion is a certified registered locksmith who specializes in cracking safes, an activity that demands patience and a delicate touch.

Opening safes isn't all he does, of course. Dion can open virtually anything with a lock on it, from a desk drawer to a bank vault. One minute he's unlocking an 1860 steamer trunk, the next he's rekeying a 2012 Ford Focus.

Dion works in his family's business, Dion Locksmith, which was founded in 1971 by his late father, Edward Dion, a former Burlington firefighter. Dion (pronounced "dye on") is now one of the largest locksmith businesses in Vermont. Eric's mother, Millie, still works in the shop at 92 North Street in Burlington, cutting keys and answering phones in her native Bronx, NY, accent.

And the phone rings often, especially during the holidays. Eric Dion says it's not uncommon to get calls on the day after Thanksgiving or Christmas from stores that normally stay open 24/7 but closed for the holiday and can't reopen their doors. Someone, he explains, has usually lost the only key. September and June are also busy times, when students are moving in and out.

Dion, 36, is tall and lean, wearing a scraggly beard and a New York Giants hat turned backward. He cut his first key in sixth grade and has been working in the family business since shortly after high school. Over the years, the work has taken its toll on his body. Dion has gotten metal slivers in his eyes and stitches in his head (from a fluke drill accident) and crushed his finger in a vault door.

Friends and customers occasionally joke with him about using his skills for nefarious purposes, but Dion is dead serious about his responsibilities. Once a local news crew asked him to pick a lock on camera, which really irked him.

"Face it, you've got to trust *someone* in this world," Dion says. "If you can't trust your locksmith, who can you trust?"

NAME
Eric Dion

TOWN
Burlington

JOB
Dion Locksmith

SEVEN DAYS: Does your work change much from day to day?

ERIC DION: I try to learn something new every day, just like in life. There are new cars every year, with new technology. It's not a $2 car key anymore. A car key is $70 or $80, with a computer chip that makes [the car] harder to steal.

SD: What are the most common myths about locksmiths?

ED: Some people think there's a master key that fits everything in the world. Or they think things are easy, such as picking a lock.

SD: TV shows always make it look easy.

ED: It would be a boring TV show if it took the locksmith two or three tries to open a lock. It actually takes a while.

SD: How far do you travel for work?

ED: Safes bring me the farthest. I go a little bit into New Hampshire, all over Vermont and upstate New York. That's the most specialty job in this business.

SD: And you can open a safe just by listening to it?

ED: Yeah, it's an art form called manipulation. I was first taught it 13 or 14 years ago. It's something that you have to get a feel for, and it takes a lot of time and practice. I was taught by feel and by sight, not by listening.

SD: How long does it take you?

ED: My best manipulating opening was on a four-wheel Mosler lock. Four wheels mean 100 million possible combinations. It took me about a week and a half to get it open. I would go to my garage where it was quiet at night so I could focus and use my skill to dial it open. My fastest on a three-wheel lock [1 million possible combinations] is 20 minutes, which is pretty good. The masters of the art are under four minutes.

SD: You've never been tempted to go over to the Dark Side?

ED: No. I've visited people in jail, and I don't ever want to be there myself. It is true I think like a burglar all day, showing customers the easy entry points, or how I could get in. But my mind is wired to do good in this world. I love my wife and children too much, and I will never put myself in a predicament where I would be taken away from them.

SD: What's the worst part of your job?

ED: We see struggling businesses keeping the secret of closure from their employees right up to the moment when we arrive to rekey the office locks and lock everyone out of a job. We see people getting evicted with a court order and the sheriff there to back them up.

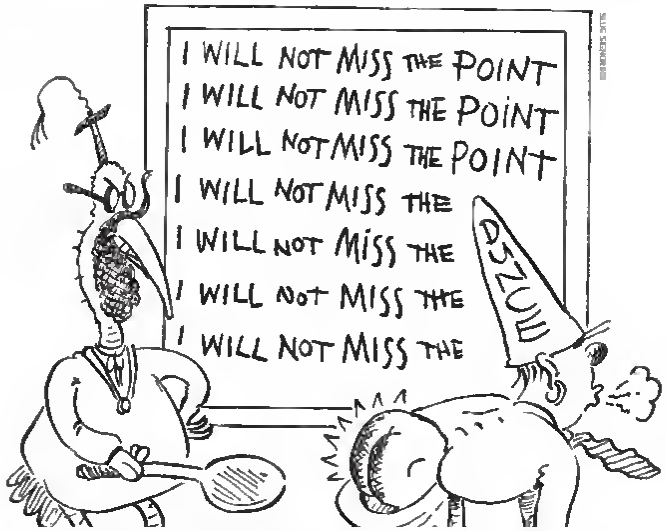
SD: And the best part?

ED: The variety of it. I find it an honor to go into people's houses every day. They put their trust in me to keep their homes safe. Businesses, pharmacies, schools, banks, military bases ... I was working up in St. Albans installing deadbolts on this woman's house. Abusive, domestic-type violence. So I was on my way out, and this 5-year-old girl says, "Thank you for putting the locks on and protecting us." It really touched my heart and stuck with me. We're out there trying to keep people safe. ⑦

'Work' is a monthly interview feature showcasing a Vermonter with an interesting occupation. Suggest a job you would like to know more about: news@sevendaysvt.com.

Comment? Contact Ken Picard at ken@sevendaysvt.com.

Dear Cecil,
Know what I think about your answer [to the question of whether there's a God]? (I mean, besides the fact that it was a load of soft-pedaling quasi-theistic horseshit?) I think the subtext suggests we have a case of Antony Flew-ism here. [The late philosopher was a longtime atheist who embraced deism late in life.] You're of the age when one starts hanging one's hopes on there being a God after all, and just don't give as much of a damn about the rational truth as you once did. Old age and death are scary. They're the great unknown. So much so, they've driven more than one lifelong unbeliever into the arms of religion. Now, I don't pretend to know what your position on the God question used to be or even is now. But you're at least in your 60s, and given how ruthlessly factual and rational you have always been in answering other weighty matters, and how mushy and indulgent towards theism you were on this question, I personally detect something of a soft spot, a chink in the armor, probably related to a desire for there to be Something Beyond.
Cyningeblod via the Straight Dope Message Board



Cynings, you surprise me. The proper reaction, on encountering some seemingly uncharacteristic example of Straight Dope logic, is not to conclude that Cecil has gone soft. Rather, it's to humbly ask: What subtle gambit is the Master up to that I've unfortunately failed to grasp? This would then be followed by the necessary hours, days, or if need be, years of patient reflection until the concept got through one's thick head. Let's consider the argument presented in our previous outing on this subject:

- The medieval theologian Thomas Aquinas reasoned that the universe must have a First Cause, to which he assigned the name God.
- Modern physicists in their way are likewise in search of a First Cause.
- If the physicists succeed, one taking the Thomistic view of things might reasonably call that First Cause God.

The callow intellect might erroneously deduce from the above that the God so construed is the benevolent deity of Western religious tradition who invites us to join him in paradise. However, on further study, or actually if you were paying any fricking attention at all, you would notice that your columnist has described the posited entity as "an impersonal, abstract, and frankly mechanistic God." What solace I or any other doddering creature might derive from such a being is a mystery to me. Indeed, to even characterize it as a being is to grant it way too much, something I'll get back to in just a mo.

One may ask, why call it God at all? Two reasons. First, entertainment value. It's easy to argue God doesn't exist, and all sorts of knucklebeads have done so. I could have rehashed their well-worn arguments, but how much fun is that? Second, unlike knee-jerk atheism, accepting that there *could* be a God provides us with an opportunity for an instructive exercise: if in fact there is an Almighty, what's it like?

Thomas Aquinas, good monk that he was, persuaded himself that God had the familiar attributes of the Christian deity — free will, perfect knowledge, infinite power and so on. Much of his reasoning is ingenious but absurd. For example, he purports to demonstrate that God consists of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, which adherents of religions other than Christianity will find ludicrous.

So let's set all that aside and focus solely on Aquinas' idea that God is the First Cause — and remember, this is the core idea of one of the world's foremost religious thinkers. A useful proxy for the First Cause is energy, which has a number of qualities commonly ascribed to the divine. The laws of thermodynamics tell us that energy is neither created nor destroyed, and thus presumably is immortal. Einstein's famous equation $E=mc^2$ suggests energy can be transmuted into matter and vice versa, and so may be said to be the wellspring for all creation, just as God is.

Yet no one thinks energy bears any resemblance to God in the traditional religious sense. It has neither knowledge nor will. It's not a person. It doesn't summon us to paradise or command us to embrace the good and shun evil. It provides our lives with no meaning. It's just there.

By this route we arrive at a fuller understanding of whether God exists. Can we identify some fundamental principle or essence at the root of the universe and define that as the deity? Sure. Does doing so provide us with grounds for belief in a benevolent, all-knowing Creator? Clearly not. In short, by acknowledging the possibility that God in some esoteric sense exists, which was the point of my original column, we show that God in the popular sense probably doesn't — or more exactly, we show that belief in such a God has no rational basis. Happy now?

Is there something you need to get straight? Cecil Adams can deliver the Straight Dope on any topic. Write Cecil Adams at the Chicago Reader, 11 E. Illinois, Chicago, IL 60611, or **cecil@chicagoreader.com**

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The Shopper

Giving as good as it gets

BY CAROLYN FOX

Welcome to the holiday season — and to the *Seven Days* holiday guide to gifts. Every Wednesday through December 21, we're offering ideas for just about everyone on your list. For greater variety, a different writer weighs in each week: same set of recipients, unique presents of mind. (Note: Some of these recipients may be figments of our imaginations.)

And what do we want this year? Just for you to shop local, please and thank you.



"Hibernating Tree"

COURTESY OF JESS GRAHAM STUDIO

Father:

Our family has a fairly well-established roster of "dad gifts" for the man who doesn't need anything — as he makes sure to announce early every December. Normal go-to gifts include puzzles, sweaters and power tools. Snooze. I'm switching it up this year with a bright print on wood by Morrisville artist Jess Graham. Even he can't disagree that "Hibernating Tree" will look great in his office. $35.

Jess Graham Studio, Morrisville, info@jessgrahamstudio.com, jessgrahamstudio.com

Mother:

Mom spends Christmas Eve in the kitchen, cooking up as many dishes as she can in an attempt at the traditional — and insanely large — 12-course Ukrainian supper. (We're always stuffed by course 3.) This year, we'll celebrate her sweet efforts with a bottle of Snow Farm Vineyard's 2008 Estate Vidal Blanc Ice Wine at dessert. With subtle notes of mango, pineapple and honey, the vintage lives up to its reputation as a special-occasion wine. $45 for 375 mL bottle

Snow Farm Vineyard, South Hero, 372-WINE, snowfarm.com

Teen Sis:

"Fashion Police" is her guilty pleasure, and — let's admit it — it's mine, too. There's no better opportunity to bond with my trendy teen sister than Joan Rivers' solo show at the Flynn on April 26. We'll go for the saucy comedian's hilarious point of view, and bone up on all the latest Hollywood gossip while we're at it. $25-64 per ticket

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington, 863-5966, flynntix.org

Kid Brother:

This little man has been on the move since learning to walk, we can barely keep up with him. To satisfy his need for speed, and maybe tire him out a little, I'm signing him up for an hourlong skateboarding lesson. All gear is provided, so it's no big deal if it turns out that wheels aren't his thing. But if they are, this leaves plenty of gift opportunities — skateboard, helmet, pads — for next year. $25.

Talent Skatepark, South Burlington, 864-2069, talentskatepark.com

Grandparent(s):

Granny's apple-pie bars are amazing, and her cheesecake recipe is no slouch, either. She doesn't get out much these days, but she's always interested to hear what new restaurants I've been eating at. With Tracey Medeiros' cookbook *Dishing Up Vermont: 145 Authentic Recipes From the Green Mountain State*, she can whip up recipes from local restaurants, B&Bs and more in the comfort of her own kitchen. Yum. $19.95.

The Flying Pig Bookstore, Shelburne, 985-3999, flyingpigbooks.com

Best Friend:

I've been to Greece and back with this long-distance bestie, and much more globe-trotting is in the works — when our budgets can handle it. For now, pink earrings stamped with the postmark of Paris will do. Stylishly symbolic of our next jaunt through Europe, they're handmade by regional artist Nancy Wallace. $26.

Artful Eye, St. Johnsbury, 424-1414, theartfuleye.com

Pet:

While rolling around in wrapping-paper scraps is probably enough to delight any dog, the pampered pooch deserves so much more. Our discerning pup will flip over locally made treats in drool-worthy flavors such as maple walnut ... and the "breath busters" made with mint will be a little gift to ourselves, too. $1.50 each.

The Quirky Pet, Montpelier, 229-1211

Coming Together

Post-Irene, a race against winter in the Mad River Valley

BY JEN VAUGHN & PAMELA POLSTON

On August 28, Dotty Kyle of Waitsfield was about to go to an event at the Vermont Festival of the Arts. Jason Gulisano, chef owner of the popular Green Cup Café, was about to wrap up Sunday brunch. Down the road in Moretown, John DiCarlo was about to close on the sale of his house. There were plenty of other about-to's on the day Tropical Storm Irene changed the plans — and altered the lives — of so many Vermonters...





When the Mad River surged far over its banks, businesses and homes alongside it were severely damaged — including that of DiCarlo, whose hopes of selling were ruined along with the contents of his home. The collective losses far outweigh any owner's — or FEMA's — ability to pay for them.

Despite the disasters that Irene wrought, Waitsfield, like other Vermont towns, pulled together to take care of its own. In the face of muck and debris, ruined buildings, bridges and roads, now malformed riverbeds and displaced families, the Valley found a silver lining: proof that people care about each other.

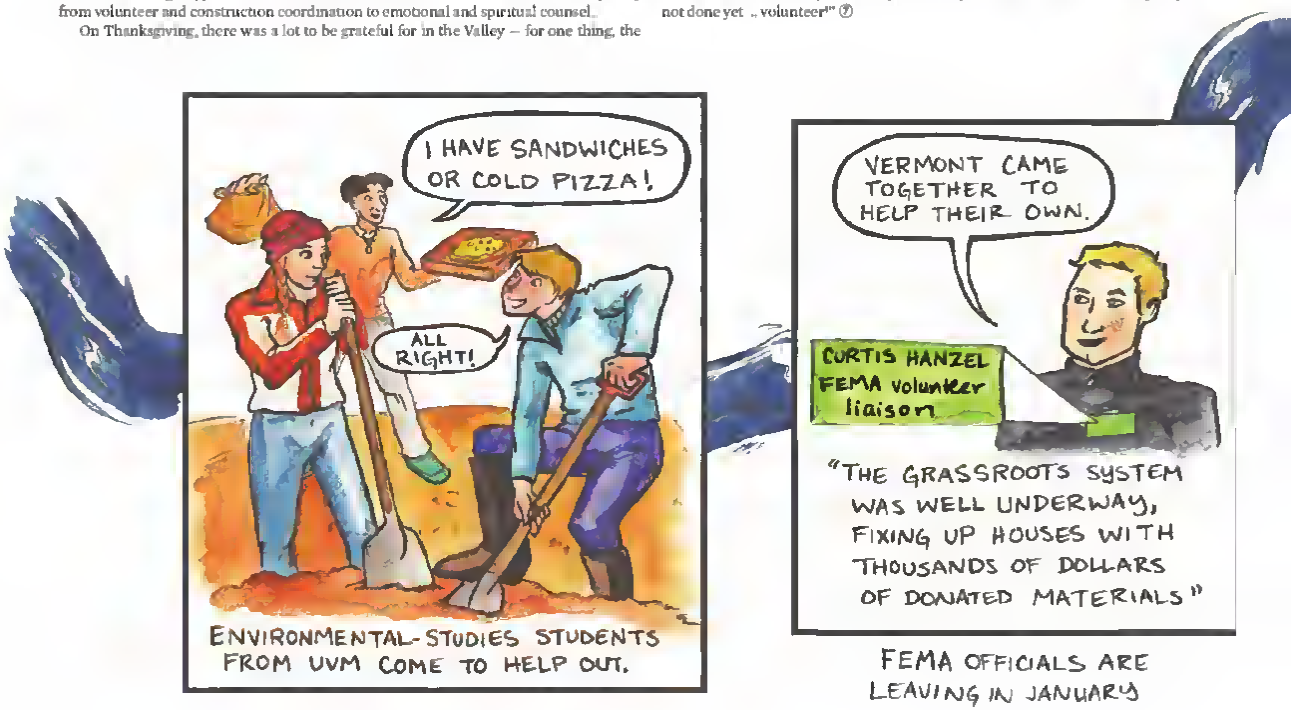
On the day after the storm, someone set up a table on Bridge Street and started soliciting volunteers to help clean up. Over a couple of months, a band of determined individuals turned into a model, FEMA-sanctioned organization for disaster relief, Mad River Flood Recovery. With the help of FEMA volunteer liaison Curtis Hanzel, MRFR formed a board to oversee every aspect of long-term relief efforts. The group acts much like a nonprofit, with fiduciary support from the Central Vermont Community Action Council and the Mad River Valley Community Fund.

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Volunteers have poured into the group's HQ — the Masonic Lodge in Wantsfield — from near and far. Carloads of environmental-studies students from the University of Vermont show up most Saturdays to pitch in. Local individuals and businesses have donated building supplies or sold them at cost. MRFR committees handle everything from volunteer and construction coordination to emotional and spiritual counsel.

On Thanksgiving, there was a lot to be grateful for in the Valley — for one thing, the patched-up Bridge Street covered bridge recently reopened to vehicles. But there is also worry that not all families uprooted by the flood have a place to live, that not all the damaged buildings are "buttoned up" yet. The relatively mild fall has been a boon, but winter is most assuredly on its way. As the sign outside the Masonic Lodge says, "We're not done yet ... volunteer!" ⑦



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AS OF NOVEMBER 13TH, 51 MAD RIVER FAMILIES WERE STILL DISPLACED.





—JEN VAUGHN

Pamela Polston and Jen Vaughn would like to thank their Valley "tour guides," who took time for them on a busy day of volunteer work: Peter Edlund, reconstruction consultant; Asah Rowles, member of the MRFR board; and Patty Kyle, chair of volunteer coordination and all-around HQ activity. You can find out how to help Mad River Flood Recovery by calling 496-6089 or visiting mrvhumaneresne.com.

Jen Vaughn is a graduate of the Center for Cartoon Studies. She lives in White River Junction.

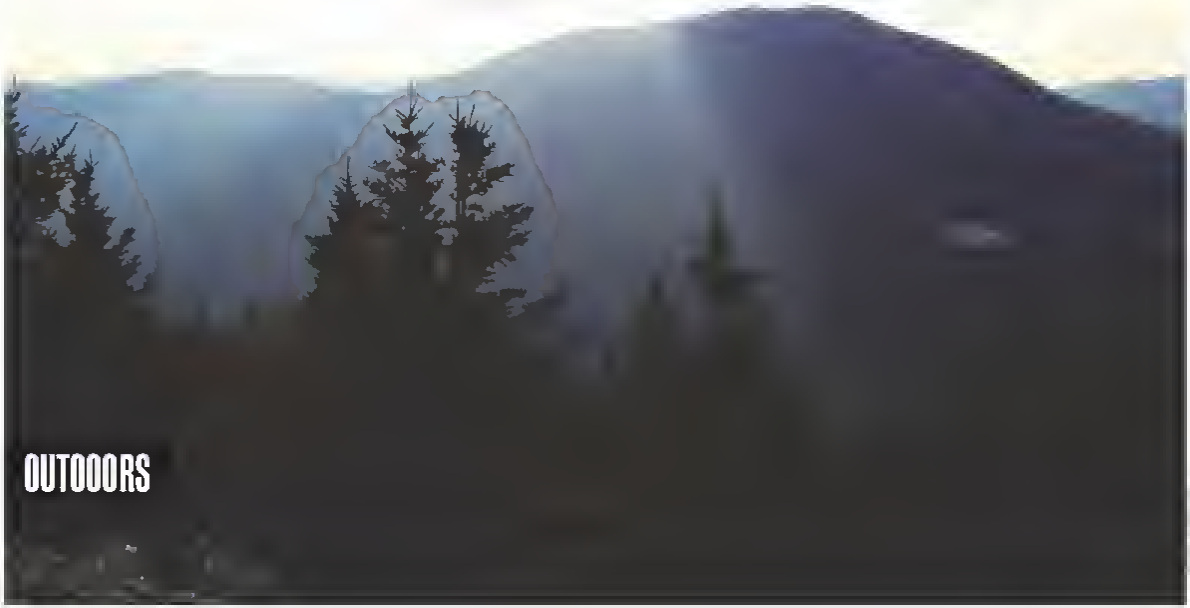




Seven Lengths of Vermont

The Long Trail: A 273-mile animal

BY LEATH TONINO



OUTDOORS

Leath Tonino was born and raised in the Champlain Valley. When he was 16, he hiked the entire Long Trail over 22 days. He later left the state to attend college in Colorado; one summer back home, he built a small raft and rowed, sailed and drifted the length of Lake Champlain. This fall, Tonino walked the length of the Long Trail again — 10 years after the first hike. And he came up with an intriguing idea: "Seven Lengths of Vermont," each a different outdoor adventure in which he experiences the natural sights, sounds, smells, seasons and people over a year in his beloved state.

Tonino is not just an outdoorsman; he's a writer — one with an abiding respect for nature and a passion for what he describes as "Vermont's endless complexity." And so his mission is to capture in words and images those Seven Lengths, with the ultimate goal of compiling them in a book. Along the way, Tonino wants to share his adventures with the readers of *Seven Days*. Here's how he describes his plan:

Over the course of a year I will travel the length of Vermont, from Massachusetts to Quebec, or vice versa, seven times. Each expedition will engage a different part of the state via a different route and a different mode of locomotion. Sometimes I'll be alone; sometimes with friends. Sometimes I'll be an athlete; sometimes a naturalist, sometimes a pilgrim. Vermont is multifaceted and so is our ability to encounter it.

The Seven Lengths of Vermont is a grand, sprawling experiment in local exploration, an immersion into the wildly familiar. It's a way of checking in — as any good neighbor should — with the community that surrounds us.

What follows are journal excerpts of Tonino's first "Length" — the Long Trail.

PAMELA POLSTON

It's hard to say much about the Long Trail because you can never say enough. You drive up to the Canadian border on a gray, windy morning in early October with a backpack full of food and a guidebook in your pocket. You walk for three weeks through a rain of colored leaves — 273 miles of root, rock and black mud grabbing at your boots. You climb mountains, drink from springs, watch moths and stars. Weather washes over you like thoughts, and your thoughts become like weather. Sometimes you are happy, sometimes sad, sometimes bored. When you reach Massachusetts, it's snowing.

What summary could ever do justice to an experience so rich and varied? The Long Trail reminds me of Aristotle's idea of "an animal a thousand miles long." We can focus on little pieces of the animal at any given time, but never on the whole thing at once. Similarly, we can talk about those little pieces we've encountered — the summit of Mansfield, the Clarendon Gorge — but it's hard to get your mind around the whole experience.

The Long Trail is huge, powerful. It's a beast whose back I've walked. Last month I completed my second through-hike of the trail. Southbound. Twenty days. A week of rain, a week of sun, a week of cold. And there I go already, reducing the "animal" 273 miles long to direction, duration and a meteorological report. It is hard not to describe my hike this way, yet it also seems unfair.

As I sit at my desk, countless images come back to me, each a little anecdote linked to a precise moment in time and point on the map. The images coat the surfaces of my thoughts like birch leaves papering over a puddle. I search for some theme or design that will turn the leaves into a coherent story, but find nothing. And so they just sit there on the puddle, layered, beautiful and random. For example:

Day 2

I've climbed up out of the hardwoods onto a narrow ridge that climbs higher still, into the mist. This is the spruce-fir zone, all inky green and needled and wetter than a bog. My face is turned down to the trail, as it has been for hours and will be for hours more. The footwork is tricky, mesmerizing. I feel drugged with repetition: step after step, breath after breath. In my ears there's only the beat of my walking. The world has closed in around my focus.

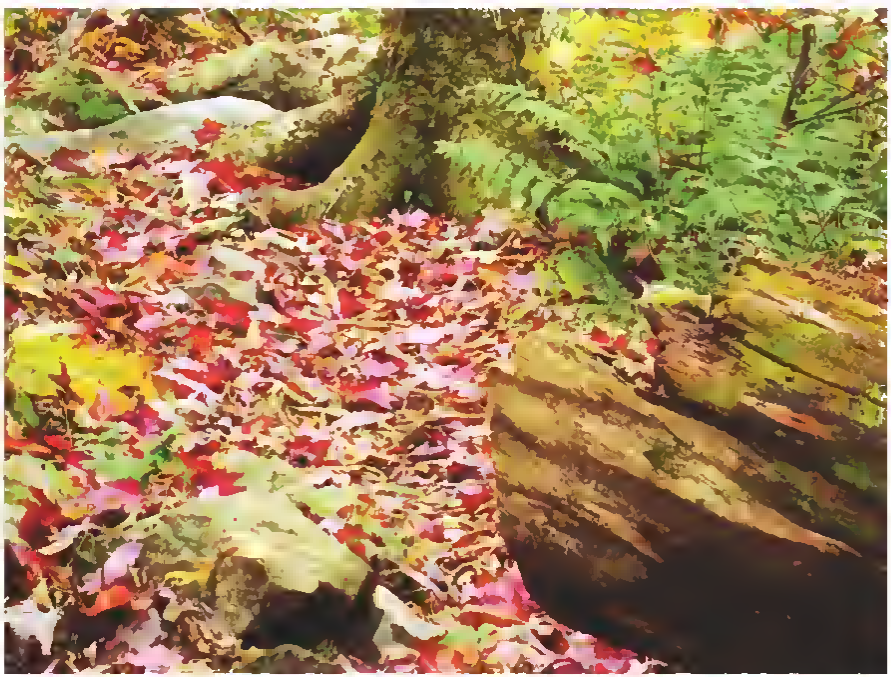
Whum-whump-whump-whump-whump. A ruffed grouse, still in tawny summer plumage, fires out from the drooping ferns less than a yard to my right. The noise of the grouse's beating wings — so much louder than anything else in this subdued forest — breaks through my hypnosis, stopping me in my tracks. For a second I'm terrified, like I've woken, disoriented, from a deep dream. I look around. The grouse is gone, but my awareness is up. Other birds are appearing through the trees: bluejays, black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, golden-crowned kinglets. Have they been here the whole time? Was I that oblivious? One chickadee comes in close, almost landing on me, and then the shining eyes and delicate feathers dissolve back into the woods. A raven croaks somewhere out of sight. I'm growing cold, standing here waiting, and hoping, for more.

Day 5

A cold wind is blowing and leaves are flying everywhere — mostly yellows and oranges and unnamed shades that blend the two. I feel like an ant on some abstract expressionist's canvas, the artist hidden up in the day's overcast sky, flinging darts of pigment down around me. I make no effort to dodge them. Rather, I hike hard, straight into the wind, leaves catching against my body, hanging there for a moment before falling away. At

SEVEN LENGTHS OF VERMONT » P.34





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Seven Lengths « P33

times I enjoy the funny feeling that I am a tree and this shedding of leaves is proper to me, an ancient ceremony by which I prepare myself for winter. At other times I go mindless, lost in that drooling meditation of the trail. Step-step. Breath-breath.

And then ... shuffle-shuffle-shuffle. Beneath me the canvas has changed. I've stepped from a brown-gold pattern into an ankle-deep pool of magenta. The artist has laid it on particularly thick here, adding bright green moss and cream-colored mushrooms for a flourish. I'm startled, as I was by the grouse, but this time it's more like waking *into* a dream. This color! Unreal! I look up into the canopy. One tree, directly above me, stands out from the rest. A leaf falls, a blotch of magenta growing and growing. It hits my smiling face, and I shed it, good tree — or ant? — that I am.

Day 8

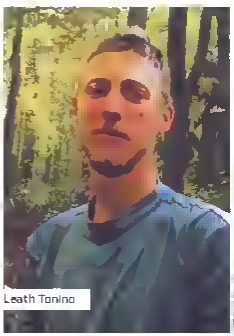
Fat Carl is grilling me a steak on the fire pit. Barry is handing me the Polish blackberry brandy. Evil Pete is adjusting the volume on some portable speakers that pipe out an incessant stream of bad classic rock. Schmitty chops more wood. The fellow in the flannel shirt is quiet as a stump. And there's old, gray-bearded Randy, sitting snuggled up in the back of the log shelter, overseeing it all. He's yelling jokes, dirty words and old stories, talking with the big gestures of his shaky hands.

This is Connecticut Guys Weekend, a 20-year tradition, and tonight I'm joining these middle-aged professionals for a little fun. Hiking after dark, feeling a bit creeped out, I pictured the shelter ahead of me as an eerie, lonely place. I resolved myself to an unavoidable encounter with ghosts. Then I rounded a knob and saw the fire. Then the propane lanterns. And then I heard "Dream Weaver." What the hell?

It would be easy to judge this sloppy scene as an unwanted intrusion — normal, noisy, technological life butting in on the sacred, quiet realm of the trail. It would be easy to say that this is a deviation from what the Long Trail really *is*. But that would be wrong. Here we are. Here is a kielbasa to follow up my steak, and here is pumpkin cheesecake to wash it all down. Sit back. Enjoy the company. Pray for a good song. Drift off into a full-bellied trance of laughter and creaking trees and hooting owls. Cadge another beer off Randy.

Day 11

This is the fifth caterpillar of the afternoon, and it's just like the others: fuzzy, white with black dots and black spikes of hair, incredibly small, incredibly slow. It's working its way across the trail, through tunnels of curled leaves and along the airy edges of crisscrossed twigs. I get down on my hands and knees to better appreciate the microtopography and the effort fueling this tiny journey. Soon, through the miracle of sustained focus, my fate is tied to that of the caterpillar. *No, go left. No, not over that leaf!* The leaf tips under our weight, flipping us back to the ground. No worries. We right ourselves and keep going, unperturbed and incredibly slow.


Leath Tonino

Day 14

Killington is socked in and my sweat is cooling fast. There is no view to be had from this, the second-highest point in the state. I prepare to leave, lacing my boots tight for what will surely be a sketchy descent. And then, in the corner of my eye, like a hallucination in faint rose tones, a valley swirls out of the gray. The fabric of the sky is coming apart, a hundred miles of countryside appearing through the morphing gaps. The wind is hashing my eyes, making me cry. I blink away the tears to see more clearly, and the clouds fall back in on themselves. The view is gone. Maybe it never existed to begin with. Oh, sweet frustrating world of shifting frames!

Day 17

He's probably 75 years old, hiking solo. He says his name is Dean, says he spent all yesterday sitting by a mountain pond. "Too great to pass up. I didn't hike a mile. What's the hurry, anyway?" he says. Dean is a small man with a towering pack. White hair. Smiles a lot. "I'm out here for the experiences," he says. "That's all I want."

We part ways, he north, me south. It hits me about 20 steps down the trail that Dean is my hero. That man is Vermont's answer to the ancient Japanese mountain sage. Later that afternoon, when I reach the pond he'd spoken of, I take the longest lunch of my life.

Day 20

I rise at dawn, intent on finishing the trail and hitching a ride home. It's raining, or maybe the rain has stopped and the trees are dripping — I can't tell. I'm looking out from the cave of my hood, down at the ground. After this many miles, my boots know what to do, as if they have minds of their own. I'm looking out, but I'm not looking at anything.

The dap-dap-dap on my hood is steady — this must certainly be rain. Or is it? The sound is shifting, lightening, getting brusher. It is an infinitesimal shift, audible only to somebody who has been out in the woods for weeks, whose ears have been trained by a million small sounds. Whish-whish-whish. Before my eyes can register what's happening out there beyond the protection of my raincoat, my ears make the call: *This is no rain! This is snow!*

I hike for hours, up into a white forest, into a storm of loose, wet flakes the size of nickels. It's my last day on the Long Trail. First snow of the year.

This is the Long Trail, my personal Long Trail. It's an unruly mess, but what else could it be? If the Long Trail didn't promise to overwhelm us with a diverse array of experiences — from the social to the ecological to the spiritual — then why bother putting in the effort in the first place? If the Long Trail wasn't an animal 273 miles long, then you could just read about it and call it good. But you can't do that. You have to get out and encounter it for yourself, whether on a short day hike or a full-fledged, end-to-end expedition. You have to make it *your* Long Trail. I promise. It will do most of the work for you.

Sitting here at my desk, thinking back, I walk again the wooded spine of my home. I hike from memory to memory, camping a while at some, stopping for a short snack break at others. I dip a tin cup into one memory. I strain my ears into the song of another. At the ledge of a third I drop my pack and stare out across valleys of red barns and faded meadows. The Green Mountains are gray-purple, leafless, at peace beneath an empty sky. Autumn is behind me. Canada seems very far away. ⑦





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BUSINESS

Fair Fares

An Essex cabbie allows passengers to pay what they want

BY JESS WISLOSKI



Eric Hagen

Eric Hagen had only been driving his taxi for a few weeks when he received some unsolicited feedback from the competition.

"You're going to lose your shirt!" yelled a fellow cab driver, who'd pulled up alongside Hagen's black SUV at a Winooski intersection.

The man, who drove for a cab company Hagen won't name, was giving Hagen flack about the slogan emblazoned in capital letters across the rear window of Hagen's Dodge: PAY WHAT YOU WANT. Underneath was his phone number.

That was two years ago, when the 1999 Durango's bumper and windows were covered with those haphazardly affixed, black-on-white square stickers from Aubuchon Hardware. "It looked like a mailbox on wheels," recalls Hagen.

Despite that cabbie's warning, Hagen is still in business.

Recession Ride Taxi, as the name-your-price car service is called, is based in Essex, where Hagen, 48, lives. What started as a way to pick up extra cash in the middle of the recession turned into a full-time job and his first successful venture as an entrepreneur. Allowing passengers to set their own fares may have been a dubious way to build a business, but since he started in the summer of 2009, Hagen has only seen green.

The Durango is history, but the 2004 silver Grand Caravan he's driving now is equally unimpressive. It does sport a professional-looking logo and actual appliques on the side windows, though. And Hagen's choice of a multipassenger minivan reveals that his taxi is in high demand. He's even looking to expand in the next few months.

The minivan was an upgrade so Hagen could accommodate groups, as he is increasingly called on to do — he's got contracts with youth-care services and rehab programs, for example. Those customers like the affordable rates, and Hagen likes the regular business. And it fits his original vision for Recession Ride to help folks out.

Hagen is a hulking redhead who might look more at home in a gym pumping iron than sitting behind the wheel of a minivan all day. Before he started driving the cab, he worked for the American Red Cross. Three or four days a week, for about 12 hours a day, Hagen drove a 28-foot truck filled with the equipment and supplies needed to operate rural blood drives. He set up and took down those sites, doing inventory and processing blood donations, and returned everything to Red Cross headquarters at night.

Prior to that, Hagen worked in the world of finance, and his career there mirrored the market. His jobs were boom and bust.

In the late '80s, Hagen had a job on the New York Stock Exchange as a wire clerk. The movie *Wall Street* was filming right downstairs when he started there, he recalls. Then came the 1987 stock-market crash. Three years later, Hagen moved to Vermont to work in sales for Bombardier Capital, a financing company. When GE Capital bought it, local positions were eliminated.

Hagen spent a few years as a phone-service representative for financial advisers Putnam Investments. He was out, again, when shifts in that company scuttled its work-at-home team. Next, at Homebound Mortgage in Colchester, Hagen was briefly a loan officer ... and witnessed firsthand the beginning of the end of that industry.

"You could see the writing on the wall a long time before everybody else could," he notes. Hagen left shortly before Homebound closed its doors in 2004.

"I was always surrounded by money and money management. It was always unstable," he says. "Places were always

closing down or getting bought out or getting taken over."

The Red Cross gig was Hagen's attempt to tap into a business with regular supply and demand. "I thought there was stability there because, you know, it's blood and regardless of what's going on in the economy, or wherever you are, everybody needs blood," he reasons.

However, as a single dad with two teenage girls, Hagen found the Red Cross job didn't cover all his financial needs. He started mulling over the idea of a cab business.

"The initial thought was that it would be part time," Hagen says. "If I was going to do it, I wanted it to be different, something completely out of the ordinary from what you typically see."

Eventually, Hagen's own troubled history in finance became his inspiration. "I kept kicking it around and [thinking] that everything we do is based on income and profit and money" he says. "I wanted to create a business that would be helpful to not only myself — naturally, you open a business so that it can be profitable — but be a benefit to people."

PEOPLE ARE A LOT MORE GENEROUS THAN ANYBODY THINKS.
ERIC HAGEN

Then, Hagen says, "This pay what-you-want taxi service came to mind. I took this business that was common and just put a twist on it."

Within two weeks, he had registered his SUV for work and hit the streets. At first, people were incredulous. 'I got a lot of calls that were, like, 'I don't need a ride, but is this really real?'" he says. Within a month, the Associated Press did a story on Recession Ride, and business took off.

Local hotels, notably the Days Inn, helped out by distributing Hagen's cards and sending customers his way. For the first eight months, he drove his cab late into the night while still working those 12-hour shifts for the Red Cross. Last year he resigned and became his own boss.

Soon, service-oriented nonprofits and state-run programs were contacting Hagen for affordable transportation, he says. When Recession Ride became available seven days a week, he had more work than ever.

"I think the popularity of it has exceeded what I expected," Hagen says.

So, how's the money? Despite the ever-changing fares, Recession Ride has been in the black, Hagen says. He won't disclose what the company has made over the past two years, but allows that now it's "considerably more" than the $600 a week he was earning in those first few weeks.

His philosophy seems to have paid off. "I trusted people that they would be fair with me because I was fair with them," Hagen says.

He's never been stiffed, and says most riders have the courtesy to ask in advance if he'll drive them for their selected price.

"Nobody really ever gets in the car and, at the end of the ride when I drop them off, [says,] 'Here's a buck' or two bucks," Hagen says. "They usually will say up front, 'Look, I only have this much money. Is it possible for you to take me from here to there, would you be willing to do that?' Of course I say, 'Yes, I can do that.' Other people will say nothing, and just hand me what they think the ride is worth," he says.

"People are a lot more generous than anybody thinks," Hagen concludes. "I think people appreciate the fact that I've allowed them to make a choice, and I think they are more generous because I've allowed them to do that."

A ride from Essex to Burlington — a path Hagen travels often — might net about $12 (comparable to what most cab companies get from, say, the airport to downtown Burlington). But, he says, he's done that route for $8, $10 and $15, too. "It's hard to say — it's always different," he explains, and adds that he's received calls from drivers in other states interested in trying the model.

Hagen is still on the fence about his next move. Sometime in the coming six months, he will probably add another vehicle, he says, it's just a matter of finding the right driver.

In June, his sister, Teri Emilo-Hagen, started driving part time for the company in Bennington, Middlebury and Rutland; Hagen says she mainly handles trips to the Burlington airport. "I thought maybe it would be good to help with a different region," he says, but adds, "It's very quiet down there."

Proprietors of several local cab companies contacted for this article did not return phone calls. But Quick Cab owner George Morrill says he's heard of Hagen's business and isn't too worried about the expansion of a low-cost cab service.

"You are not going to be able to operate for a lower cost than what we're charging," Morrill asserts. "But who knows? Maybe he can operate for nothing. That's fine."

Hagen believes adding another car will work. He is, however, a little cautious. Recession Ride is his first enterprise, and he's been on the losing side before. "So many businesses have failed by getting overzealous or going beyond their means," Hagen says. "I'm trying to keep it as simple as possible." ⑦

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Snoop Dogged

Book review: *Tag Man* by Archer Mayor

BY PAMELA POLSTON

BOOKS

Out of the gate, Archer Mayor's 22nd volume in his Joe Gunther series is unusual. In most of the Newfane author's Vermont-based police procedurals, a dead body turns up pretty quickly. So does the reader's racheting anxiety and page-turning curiosity about whodunit. In *Tag Man*, we're dropped into the routine of a mysterious man who breaks into the homes of well-to-do folks around Brattleboro — often outwitting sophisticated security systems. He silently snoops around, helps himself to a snack from the fridge, maybe takes something of no marketable value and leaves his calling card on the bedside table of the sleeping residents: a Post-it note with the word "Tag!" He is neither a killer nor a conventional thief.

Meanwhile, we're reminded that Joe's girlfriend was assassinated in the last book, and find that he's depressed, on a leave of absence and in therapy. Also, detectives and series staples Sammie Martens and Willy Kunkle have had, improbably, a baby girl — the first thing in arerbic, assholic Willy's fictional history to elicit tenderness. Fatherhood turns out to be a subtext throughout the book, and a role that brings Willy to a new level of understanding human behavior.

Tag Man's uncharacteristically laconic setup is disturbing in its own way. You wonder when the other shoe — *any* shoe — is going to drop. Mayor obliges soon enough. The reader learns the ID of the tag man before the story's other characters do: He's Dan Kravitz, a restaurant worker and, as it happens, a respected confidential informant of Willy's. In a hidden basement room of a house he's broken into, Dan finds something *creeepeee* scrapbooks of an apparent serial killer's conquests. Think gruesome photographs and hanks of women's hair.

Things heat up from here. Plot developments include a death, at the hands of Dan himself; Dan's dangerous quest to expose the secret murderer without exposing his own nocturnal hobby, and the parallel investigations of local law enforcement. They're on the trail of the tag man, the new homicide in Brattleboro and a sketchy nouveau-riche jerk named Lloyd Jordan, whom they suspect of, well, all kinds of things. A tangled web, indeed. Naturally, Joe Gunther can't help but shake off his doldrums and join the case. It could hardly be a Joe Gunther book without him.

Over the years, Mayor has allowed his cast of characters to age and

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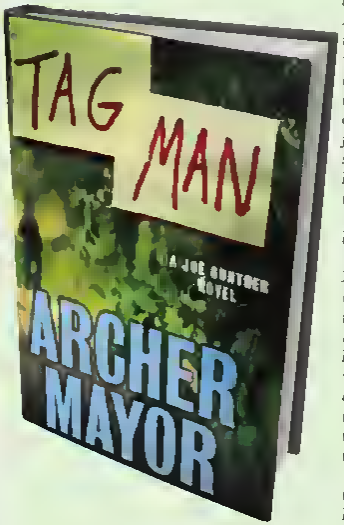
From *Tag Man*

Dan stepped inside his inner sanctum — neat, white, windowless, as organized and clean as a museum exhibition — and closed the door behind him, pressing against it with his shoulder blades. He was hot, flushed, his heart hammering, his hands trembling — having a full-blown panic attack.

From the moment of Sally's abduction, now four hours ago, he'd been struggling to stay centered.

But the weight of his doubts about his own sanity was pulling him down. He felt trapped halfway up an endless set of stairs, saddled with a rock-filled backpack that only grew heavier as he ascended.

"Sally, Sally, Sally," he whispered, as he had been compulsively for hours, using her name as a guiding light. He was down to his own basic elements now, of repetition, of orderliness, of trying to exert control over anarchy. As he'd driven a truck that he'd stolen near Pownal, after fleeing the racetrack, he'd steered solely with his left hand, using his right to arrange and rearrange the maps and pens and general trash that he'd found scattered across the seat beside him — almost hitting the ditch several times in the process.



All the while repeating his daughter's name.

He blinked several times. Here in his room at least, everything was as he'd left it — every object touched by him, placed by him, brought here by him. Functionality was addressed, the role of each item clear and defined, the very pattern in which they were displayed refined through constant trial.

There could be no perfection in Dan's life — no real hope of release from the tensions of his world. But this room, at least, was better than almost anywhere else.

And if there was any hope for Sally, this was where he might achieve it.

That very notion cleared his mind slightly. He stopped mumbling her name, took a deep breath, and shook out his hands — like a pianist preparing to play.

He'd been stricken by what had occurred at the racetrack, but not solely because of Sally. Seeing Hauser and Jordan in the same place at the same time had come as a complete surprise. All his thoughts had been given to the former, whom he'd seen lurking, after all, outside the American Legion in Bellows Falls. The logic had fit: Dan had stumbled over the man's murder album, and in so doing had disturbed a hornet's nest.

But Lloyd Jordan?

Dan crossed his immaculate room, sat in his wheeled office chair, and rolled over to his filing cabinet, where he'd placed the documents that he'd stolen from Jordan's office but only glanced at cursorily.

Part of him felt like an idiot, that he'd never fully addressed the code protecting the content of that material. But ironically, it wasn't his habit to pry unnecessarily.

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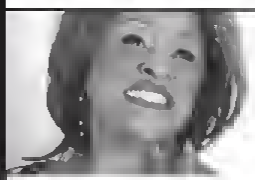


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The point

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evolve like the rest of us, their relationships and jobs to shift. Gunther began the series as top cop of the Brattleboro PD in a relationship with an ambitious attorney, Gail Zigman (who is Vermont's governor by the time *Tag Man* rolls around). Some half dozen books back, Gunther was pegged to head the state's (fictional) new Vermont Bureau of Investigation, an outfit whose purpose is essentially to assist smaller agencies in solving serious crimes, and which was immediately resented by all said agencies. [With him into the prestigious but underfunded VBI Gunther took his longtime sidekicks, Martens, Kunkle and fellow detective Lester Spinney.]

IN *TAG MAN*, NOT ALL THE CHASERS ARE COPS, AND THE INTERCONNECTED LAYERS OF PURSUIT KEEP THINGS LIVELY.

Over time and several books, Joe and Gail's relationship slowly, albeit respectfully, unraveled, Joe eventually met and cautiously fell in love with Lyn Silva, an attractive bar owner with a heart of gold, a troubled past and a grown daughter. In the last installment, Lyn took a sniper's bullet that was meant for Gail. Mayor presumably has his reasons for depriving his protagonist of a love life, but longtime readers who've grown fond of the kindly, aging detective may find cold comfort in the salve he offers for Joe's sorrow: getting him back to work.

Which brings us to *Tag Man*. Mayor's ability to flesh out characters fully is one of his strengths, so series fans will settle in comfortably with the regulars while learning enough about Dan Kravitz to sympathize with him. In fact, he's one of the most intriguing characters Mayor has invented in some time — private, neurotically neat, obsessive compulsive, paranoid and highly intelligent. The author doesn't explain how Dan acquired his skills as a consummate hacker and cat burglar, or what exactly has made him spend his life moving elusively from one secret lair to another.

Mayor does show us single-parent Dan's humanizing devotion to his teenage daughter, Sally — the one thing that makes him vulnerable. It also makes him crazy enough to take her out of school and along with him in the search for the alleged serial killer, Paul Hauser — who, in an unfortunate twist of events, has learned his pursuer's identity and is pursuing Dan in return. More unluckily for Dan and Sally, so is Lloyd Jordan. That's because Dan has stolen a piece of paper from Lloyd's house that would, if exposed — well, it would not be right to reveal more here.

Suffice it to say that in *Tag Man*, not all the chasers are cops, and the interconnected layers of pursuit keep things lively. But it also must be said that Mayor plays a little loosey-goosey with his storytelling. There are a few too many unexplained events and convenient clues that move things along. While Mayor burrows deep into Dan Kravitz's psyche, the facts of his bio remain encrypted. We don't really know, for example, why Dan is familiar with such places as the former racetrack in Pownal, where the story's action comes to a violent apex. Surprise is a mystery writer's tool, to be sure, but too many contrivances can leave a reader feeling a bit cheated.

All that said, Mayor excels in pacing the narrative to retain a sense of forward momentum while also pausing to develop not just character but a sense of place. For Vermont readers, even those unfamiliar with the Brattleboro area, these passages are particularly resonant. Mayor's interest in history, geography and the socioeconomic forces that shape towns — and their denizens — gives his series its signature backstory and, yes, far more rich detail than would fit on a Post-it note. ⑦

Tag Man by Archer Mayor. Minotaur Books, 290 pages. $25.99.

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Against the Grain

Does Greater Burlington have a great gluten-free pizza?

BY CORIN HIRSCH, ALICE LEVITT AND *SEVEN DAYS* STAFF



Not too long ago, people who discovered they were allergic to gluten — the protein found in wheat, rye and other grains — faced a culinary life devoid of doughy pleasures such as cookies, pasta, bread, cakes and pizza. But, as more and more people swear off wheat, food purveyors and restaurants have responded with a virtual avalanche of gluten-free goods. The most miraculous among them, gluten-free pizza.

Most gluten-shunning peeps would rather not be reminded they're eating a substitute. So, in solidarity with gluten-free pizza lovers throughout Vermont — including those on our staff — we decided to taste test a few local pies and zero in on which most resembled the real thing, and why.

GLUTEN IS WHAT GIVES DOUGH ITS ELASTICITY; WITHOUT IT, A CRUST CAN BECOME MORE BISCUITY THAN BREADLIKE.

Our *Seven Days* panel contained only one bona fide gluten-free devotee: account manager **Jessica Piccirilli**, who suggested the survey to us a few weeks ago. Our other tasters — designer **Diane Sullivan**, web editor **Tyler Machado**, arts writer **Megan James** and co-owner and editor **Pamela Polston** — fell into one of two camps: They were either passionate about pizza, or simply hungry on a deadline day. Food writers **Corin Hirsch** and **Alice Levitt** just like to sample everything in sight.

For the sake of simplicity, and so we could sample pies before they petrified into cold, hard masses, we selected pizzerias within striking distance of central Burlington. This meant we had to exclude favorite haunts such as Stowe's **Pie in the Sky** and **Piecasso**, not to mention pizzerias even farther afield. From each establishment in the survey, we ordered a plain cheese pie with red sauce.

During our marathon blind testing session, we kept in mind that making gluten-free pizza crust is no easy task. Gluten is what gives dough its elasticity, without it, a crust can become more biscuity than breadlike.

Even so, some pies garnered immediate fans, while others reminded us of the grade school cafeteria.

— C.H

JUNIOR'S DOWNTOWN

176 Main Street, Burlington, 862-1234

Both the flagship Junior's Italian in Colchester and the more recent addition, Junior's Downtown, use gluten-free crusts produced by a Connecticut supplier called Still Riding Pizza. The dough combines bean, rice and tapioca flours and starch, bound by xanthan gum. Small pies (the only size available; $12.73) are baked on their own sheets to shield them from wheat gluten, and they can be ordered with any toppings, says a young counterperson at the Colchester location.

— A.L.

Jess: The cheese-and-sauce combo looked appealing, but not mouth-wateringly inviting. The pizza felt crisp and smelled like pizza should, but the

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SIDEdishes

BY CORIN HIRSCH & ALICE LEVITT

Fishy Farewell

BURLINGTON'S OLDEST JAPANESE RESTAURANT CLOSES

Restaurateurs looking for a coveted Church Street space, be advised. The owners of **SAKURA OF JAPAN**, which runs **SAKURA BANA JAPANESE RESTAURANT** have decided not to renew the restaurant's lease when it expires this winter. That's according to chef-proprietor **RON TAKAHASHI**, who isn't yet certain when Burlington's oldest sushi spot will close for good, but guesses it will be in January or February.

To prepare for the closure, the menu at Sakura has been streamlined, offering the same dishes at lunch and dinner, with smaller portions and prices at the earlier meal. **SUSHIDO** in Williston, also owned by Sakura of Japan, will remain open, serving ultra-fresh rolls and home-style cooked meals.

— A L

Look Up

LEUNIG'S BISTRO TO EXPAND — VERTICALLY

Though they're a testament to the enduring popularity of **LEUNIG'S BISTRO**, the crowds that build in the front room as people wait for tables sometimes dismay co-owner Bob Conlon.

"When you're packed in like sardines and it's three deep at the bar, by the time you sit down, you may not be in the best of moods," he observes. "It's a great problem for us to have, but we want to make the experience better."

So 30-year-old Leunig's is growing — vertically. The owners have taken out a lease on a space directly above the restaurant and are busy building a bar and lounge that should be open between Christmas and New Year's.

"It will not be Burlington's new nightclub. We'll close it at the same time as the restaurant," says Conlon. "We're really looking for a nice, comfortable place where perhaps you can sit and have a drink and conversation at the same time. We're hoping to keep it pretty civilized."


Leunigs

A new set of stairs behind the ground-floor bar will lead to the upstairs room, which will seat around 40 and have a limited bar menu — pâté, cheese plates and the like. A few new bartenders have already joined the staff in anticipation of the opening.

Conlon hopes the new space will also equip Leunig's to take on private parties. "Right now, we turn down wedding rehearsal dinners, bridal showers and company parties. So we'll be able to use the room for those," he says.

And customers will no doubt appreciate being able to cozy up to the new bar while waiting for a table.

— C H

Crumbs

LEFTOVER FOOD NEWS

Last Friday, food journalist, author and *New York Times* columnist Mark Bittman and Sen. **BERNIE SANDERS** gathered farmers and employees of the Burlington **INTERVALE CENTER** for a cooference concerning the food system at the 350-acre farming compound. "I'm interested in things that move the agricultural system

SIDE DISHES ▸▸P47

Herbal Essence

PISTOU OPENS IN BURLINGTON

Diners eager to try the fare at **PISTOU** at 61 Main Street in Burlington can get a taste early when the restaurant opens on Friday, December 2. Service starts at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and homemade pastries. Those who like what they sample can head back for lunch, and for dinner, which is served until 10 p.m.

Owners **MAJI CHIEN** and **MAX MACKINNON** aren't worrying about the long days. They're too excited about the newly refurbished space — formerly home to tapas restaurant Via Loma, which opened there a little more than a year ago — and about chef Mackinnon's uncommon creations. The Middlebury grads both cut their teeth on the New York culinary scene, with big names such as David Bouley, Bar Boulud and the Food Network dotting their resumes.

The white-and-blue-painted dining room bears few traces of the dark oranges and treasure-chest-style metal fixtures of Pistou's predecessor. The bar's centerpiece is a floating wine rack crafted by **L'AMANTE'S** sous chef Chien worked at that restaurant and studied wine with chef **KEVIN CLEARY** while preparing to open Pistou. Her wine list is composed mostly of French and domestic bottles. "That's what Max and I like best, and we're trying to keep it relatively reasonable," she says. Three beers are on draught, to make room for chilled whites in the fridge.


Max Mackinnon and Maji Chien

Those tipples probably won't be too popular at breakfast, which is served Monday through Friday. Mackinnon's pastries will change each day, but Chien says they may include bagels, scones, biscuits and his signature olive-oil cake.

Lunch is the only meal to be served seven days a week. That menu will also change depending on which farm-fresh treats arrive in the kitchen. Options will always include three different rustic baguette sandwiches and panini on Red Hen Baking Co. bread, a soup, and a side salad. "It's gonna be pretty simple," says Chien, as she shows off the artisan cheeses and Salumeria Biellese meats in the deli case.

Dinner, served Wednesday through Sunday, features seasonal creations such as winter squash soup with crème fraiche panna cotta and savory granola, a slow-poached egg with farro and barbecued beets; and agnolotti filled with polenta. Diners with a sweet tooth may be tempted by chocolate-and-ricotta mousse with peanut brittle and pretzel ice cream.

Chien says that, for weeks, community members have been wandering into the space, sharing support and asking when Pistou will finally open. Now they can have a seat.

— A L

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first bite was disappointing The gritty texture was a reminder that this was no "real" pizza — it was, in fact, a subpar gluten-free substitute. The sauce and cheese were tasty but lacked any real robustness in flavor The redeeming element of this pie was the last two bites of the crust, which had a good, nongritty crunch that left me feeling satisfied.

Alice: When I opened the box, this pie had a giant, white blob of barely melted mozzarella resting in the middle. Not an auspicious start, but by the time we ate it, the cheese had blended better and lent the pie most of its greasy, salty flavor I'm not usually a crust eater, but the crisp, cracker-like one on this pizza was my favorite part of it. Had the whole slice had that texture, it coulda been a contender

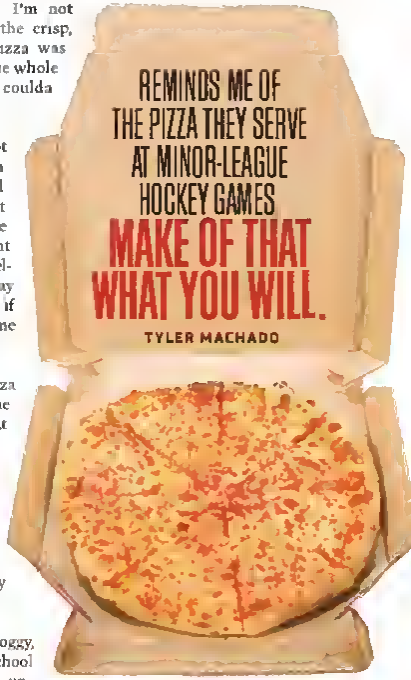
Corin: Despite a nondescript sauce (which can be OK on pizza) and ample melted cheese, the chalky, bland crust overpowered each bite. The entire thing was discordant and a little bit sullen, as if the elements were trying to run away from each other I wondered if this pie had done freezer time before it did oven time

Tyler: Reminds me of the pizza they serve at minor league hockey games Make of that what you will

Diane: Floppy crust and watery sauce Very school lunch-y

Pamela: This crust was bland, too early-health-food-y It tasted like rice flour

Megan: Crust was a little soggy, almost spongy. Tasted like school lunch. The sauce was like unadorned tomato paste, and there was too much of it



LEONARDO'S PIZZA

83 Pearl Street, Burlington, 862-7700

"We always try to do things other places can't do or don't do or won't do," says Leonardo's director of operations Kelly Byers He says the company's early attempts to make the dough on its own failed "It's a completely different animal than regular doughs"

So the small chain, with outlets in South Burlington, Burlington and Portland, Maine, found a supplier A year and a half ago, it began selling rice-and-tapioca-based crusts made by Tasti-Grain in Utica, NY The pies are available only in size medium ($12.95), but all the regular toppings can be added Byers warns that, while he cooks his gluten-free pizzas on special screens, Leonardo's kitchens are not gluten free

—A.L.

Jess: This pie looked delightful The cheese was abundant and heated perfectly so that it was a little brown and bubbly — just the way I like it! As an added touch, it was speckled with fresh green herbs that perfectly complemented the sweet, well-seasoned sauce The crust tasted wonderful, and while eating it I didn't feel like I was being deprived of gluten at all I felt like I was just another gal eating just another delicious pizza

SIDEdishes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

forward," Bittman told *Seven Days*.

Bittman seemed particularly taken with the Intervale's **FOOD HUB**, where two young farmers, **THOMAS CASE** of **ARETHUSA FARM** and **ERIC SEITZ** of **PITCHFORK FARM**, talked about the boom their farms have experienced since the CSA-offering collaborative opened in 2007.

As Case left the event, Bittman told him that he hoped to see him in the spring. Sounds like the author may have plans to check out more of the Intervale when it's in action. "The Food Hub is really sort of innovative. It will be interesting to see where it goes, though there's no reason it won't do great," said Bittman, who was in Vermont for Thanksgiving with his father-in-law.

—A L



Sen. Bernie Sanders, Mark Bittman, Travis Marcotte, Intervale Center executive director

ALICE LEVITT

On November 15, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce honored **MICHAEL'S ON THE HILL** chef **MICHAEL KLOETI** and his co-owner and wife, **LAURA KLOETI**, as "Restaurateurs of the Year" during its annual **VERMONT HOSPITALITY GALA**. Also honored was **TOM BIVINS**, formerly of the **NEW ENGLAND CULINARY INSTITUTE**, who picked up the title of "Chef of the Year." Bivins left NECI in October for **CROP BISTRO & BREWERY**, his soon-to-open restaurant in Stowe.

A new boon for food-related businesses affected by Tropical Storm Irene comes from **FARMPLATE**, a website that aims to connect farms, food producers and markets with consumers and one another. It's offering such businesses one year of free online marketing. In a statement, FarmPlate founder and president Kim Werner says her company is committed to "contributing to their health in any way we can, especially after the devastation they experienced from Irene."

—C H

Follow us on Twitter for the latest food gossip! **Corin Hirsch** @latesupper **Alice Levitt** @aliceeats

Alice: When I was a kid, my shih tzu, Bubbeleh, refused to eat anything but vegan dog food. He had a good reason. The stuff was pretty tasty, and I munched on it like tiny crackers for years. This crust gave me a powerful Proustian memory rush back to that vegan dog food. The only major difference was the bready texture of this slice, far different from Bubbeleh's crunchy grub.

So it wasn't exactly what I look for in a pizza — but it didn't taste bad. In fact, the herbaceous, tangy sauce was one of the most flavorful, and the cheese on top was speckled with lovely dots of brown. One of the best, though it made me miss my dog.

Corin: I'm a fan of all things slightly burnt, and so I was excited to tuck into this pie's slightly charred cheese. Underneath lay all kinds of goodness. The sauce was appealingly sweet, the crust flirted with crispness, and all of the elements blended together in that sloppy way that makes decent pizza. Still, this was clearly a gluten-free crust, with its hard-to-mask powdery mouthfeel.

Tyler: Yeah, the sauce was really good. But I think I liked this slice because it was cooked to perfection. It could please doughy-crust lovers and crispy-crust lovers equally.

Diane: Looks good. The cheese and sauce are good. The crust was rather like cardboard and had a slight dog-biscuit aftertaste.

Pamela: This one was pretty good — sauce was tasty, and it didn't scream "gluten free."

Megan: Mmmmmm ... much better! The crust had a great crispy texture. It held its own. The sauce had some nice herby flavors. I liked that, in one bite, I could taste all the individual components separately, as opposed to the first pizza, which was like slurping down one sloppy mass.

HEALTHY LIVING MARKET

222 Dorset Street, South Burlington, 863-2569

Healthy Living Market is a mecca of sorts for gluten-free baked goods. Besides its fresh gluten-free pizza, which was introduced in the café 18 months ago, the bakery turns out a range of fruit breads that could double for the real thing. The market also has an entire aisle devoted to gluten-free crackers, pastas and other morsels.

For their gluten-free pizza crust, the bakers here use a blend of brown-rice, soy, tapioca and white-rice flours. This was easily the largest of the pies, but also the most expensive, ranging up at $17.

—C H

Tyler: I liked the crust on this one a lot, and the parsley was a tasty touch. It just needed more cheese and sauce to offset the thick, bready texture of the crust. Balance the proportions, and this would have been a slice of perfection.

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Corin: I loved the gritty cornmeal on the bottom of the pie, a traditional touch that adds texture. But the herbaceous sauce and melted cheeses were both drowned out by the hard, monolithic crust. Pizza makers shouldn't be afraid to make a pie where the toppings slide around a bit — with a flatter crust, this one would shine.

Megan: This one looked really nice. Pretty, green herbs sprinkled on top. My first thought was, *It takes a lot of chewing.* It was more of a cheese bread than a pizza. The cheese was more flavorful than the other pizzas' — kind of tasted like Swiss?

Alice: This crumbly cornmeal crust scraped my throat as I swallowed each bite. Not pleasant. There was a ton of the thick dough, too. It was less like a pizza and more like a hard, greasy, gluten-free cake covered in a thick layer of cheese. I could see a sheer layer of herb-laden sauce at the corners not blanketed with mozzarella, but I couldn't taste a trace of it. I think I detected a hint of cheddar, as the slice reminded me somewhat of Goldfish Crackers. Points added for that and for a pretty dusting of parsley on top.

Pamela: Really thick, stiff crust. Bready — almost cakey. I didn't like it. The parsley sauce was not that good.

Jess: This pizza seemed to be the biggest of the bunch, and I liked that it was cut into perfect-for-sharing squares. The parsley speckled on top was a great touch. The texture was dense, and it took a lot of chewing to get through each bite, but overall the flavor was nice. Though flavorful and comforting, this pie was the least pizza-esque of the bunch. It might not be my first choice if I was craving pizza, but if I wanted a nice, dense bread topped with cheesy goodness, this might hit the mark.

THE CHEESE WAS ABUNDANT AND HEATED PERFECTLY
SO THAT IT WAS A LITTLE BROWN AND BUBBLY — JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT!

JESSICA PICCIRILLI



UPPER CRUST PIZZA

118 Pearl Street, Essex Junction, 871-5647

Upper Crust Pizza rolled out a gluten-free version of its pies about five months ago. "We knew a lot of people around here are allergic to gluten," says head cook Jason Gibbs. Staff sampled a range of gluten-free doughs from various purveyors before settling on a round crust from French Meadow Bakery. The Georgia-based company makes its dough with a blend of tapioca, rice and potato flours. The cooks at Upper Crust now go through at least a case of gluten-free crusts a week — or enough to make 24 pies. They take a little longer to bake, says Gibbs, but have proved so popular (at $11.50) that Upper Crust's gluten-free line

Continued after the classified section. PAGE 49





MATTHEW T. DILLON

Adam Paul at Upper Crust

doesn't stop at pizza anymore. Staff reserves one fryer for gluten-free chicken tenders and French fries.

—C.H.

Alice: I haven't had a Mama Celeste pizza in more than a decade, but this kind of made me want to try one again. The classic cardboard-textured crust and ketchup-like sauce brought back memories of that après-elementary-school classic. After the other tasters were done groaning over this one, I ate the last slice. So bad it was good.

Megan: Gross. I had one bite and then couldn't go on. It tasted like cleaning products.

Tyler: I thought the crust was pretty good, but the cheese and the sauce were poor quality. Unless you're in a high school cafeteria, cheese is definitely not supposed to be this shiny.

Corin: This pie smelled enticing in the car, but when we opened the box, it looked sort of like a cheese quilt, or a faux version of the real thing. The entire pie was drowning in cheese, with only the vaguest hint of sharp tomato sauce. The chalky, snow-white crust was cooked well, but it still dominated each bite. An aftertaste of pine resin rounded out the strange flavor profile.

Jess: There was something off about the sauce atop this pie. The crust was perfect, but the strong vinegary taste of the sauce overwhelmed the pie. This crust with some better-tasting sauce

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"It was really, really amazing. We got very good care. The nurses helped us a lot – they still are."

James Michael Delena will have a great story to tell. His parents Katie and Jordan, were high school sweethearts in Northfield. Dad, a Norwich graduate, is a Black Hawk pilot serving in Afghanistan. They live on base at Fort Campbell, Tennessee but Mom and Dad wanted their son born in Northfield – surrounded by family. The plan was to stay with Mom's parents, but their house fell victim to Irene's flood-waters, so instead they are staying at her grandparent's (who are now first-time GREAT grandparents!). Dad arrived in Vermont from Afghanistan on Veteran's Day and James followed soon after on Tuesday, November 15. He weighed 7lb/9oz and was 20.5" long. Little James is the first grandchild for both families and is much loved and celebrated. He looks just like his daddy – who returns to Afghanistan on November 27. The family will be reunited at Fort Campbell in March when Dad's tour of duty is over. We wish the Delena family all the very best, and we thank both Mom and Dad for their brave service and dedication. Happy Thanksgiving to the big, happy Northfield family celebrating beautiful little James Michael Delena and his parents.

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and some higher-quality cheese has the potential to be a winner

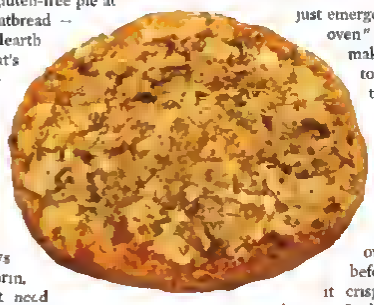
Pamela: Acid The sauce was weird and chemically I hated it so much I didn't even write any notes about the crust

Diane: I took a bite and said, "Oh, my God, I hate it!"

AMERICAN FLATBREAD—BURLINGTON HEARTH

115 St. Paul Street, Burlington, 861-2999

The hands-down favorite of our tasters was the gluten-free pie at American Flatbread — Burlington Hearth ($11.75). That's also the establishment in our survey that has been offering the option the longest, for the past two years. Says chef Jon Morin, "There's that need out there, and there are a lot of people going toward gluten free for health reasons. There's some celiac, but I think doctors in general are prescribing people to cut down on gluten."



To help their customers achieve that goal, the folks at Flatbread partnered with Essex's West Meadow Farm Bakery to make the perfect crust. It includes an exclusive blend of tapioca starch, white-rice flour, xanthan gum and oregano. Morin makes sure to use a special gluten-free pepperoni on the pies, and he lets customers know whether specialty pizzas can be made safely without gluten.

—A.L.

Jess: This is the pie that I would like to eat all day, every day. It was perfectly satisfying, and, though [Leonardo's] was a close second, in my opinion this was the clear winner in taste, texture and quality! The crust tasted like pizza crust should. Though not flimsy, it wasn't overly crisp. The slightly burnt grill marks on the bottom of the pie added a bit of bitterness that complemented the acidity and saltiness of the tomato sauce. The cheese was clearly high quality, and the sauce was perfectly seasoned. When I took the last bite, I didn't want it to be over. I wanted more and still do. Is it time for lunch yet?

Alice: In my mind, there are three acceptable varieties of pizza crust: Sicilian, New York style and what I call "matzo pizza." This crisp, flavorful dough falls into the last category, in the same school as the regular pies at Three Tomatoes Trattoria. The tangy sauce, with just a hint of spice, added a great flavor to the already nicely seasoned crust. Salty, bubbly cheese and a sprinkling of mixed parsley, oregano and marjoram took this one over the top to make it worth a try even for wheat lovers.

Corin: Yum. The bits of dark char on both bottom and top screamed, "I just emerged from a brick oven." The pizza maker laced the top with salt, too, so that the zingy sauce and slivers of fresh basil were amped and powerful. The crust was rolled out so thin before baking that it crisped up to an almost wafer-like consistency. These people give good pie.

Tyler: This was my favorite slice. The crust was less dry, thick and cornmeal-y compared to other gluten-free crusts, and the sauce was amazing. All cheese pizzas, gluten free or not, should have a healthy dose of herbs on top.

Diane: I think this was my favorite. Reminds me of [Leonardo's] — with no dog-biscuit flavor.

Pamela: Tasty, snappy sauce, herbed and addictive. Good crust — the most like "normal" ones — and had more salt, which is surely what helped it taste better. But the consistency was right, too.

Megan: This one was beautiful *and* delicious. It looked so fresh, with so many appealing colors. The cheese was browned a little, dotted with green herbs. The sauce was perfectly tangy. The crust was crisp. The cheese was soft and not as gummy as the others. I couldn't tell until the very end, when I gobbled down my crust, that it was gluten free.

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calendar

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 07, 2011

WED.30

business

AWAKENING 2012: MINDFULNESS-BASED BUSINESS-VISIONING WORKSHOP & NETWORKING EVENT Healers, artists, activists, educators, small-business owners and others participate in guided meditation and visualization exercises to actualize their fullest potential in business. Shambhala Meditation Center, Montpelier. 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Free; preregister. Info, 225-5360.

comedy

IMPROV NIGHT Fun-loving participants play "Whose Line Is It Anyway"–style games in an encouraging environment. Spark Arts, Burlington. 8–10 p.m. $5 suggested donation. Info, 373-4703.

education

TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM INFO SESSION Career changers learn about an opportunity to become a licensed educator in eight months. Cafeteria, Essex High School, 6–7 p.m. Free. Info, 238-9637.

etc.

LIA SOPHIA JEWELRY OPEN HOUSE. Snazzy accessories, deals, drawings and door prizes benefit the school. Champlain Valley Christian School, Vergennes. 1–2:30 p.m. Cost of purchases. Info, 877-3640.

film

"BRIDE FLIGHT" Three wai brides share a flight to New Zealand in this epic 2008 drama by Ben Sombogaart. Catamount Arts Center, St. Johnsbury. 7 p.m. $5–7. Info, 748-2600.

INTERNATIONAL MOVIE NIGHT A woman and her young son, living illegally in Belgium, are faced with imminent deportation in Olivier Masset-Depasse's 2010 drama *Illegal*. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier, 7 p.m. Free. Info, 223-3338.

"LOVE CRIME" When a top executive and femme fatale steals one of her assistant's ideas, her not-so-innocent protégé is ready for war in Alain Corneau's 2010 thriller. Catamount Arts Center, St. Johnsbury. 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. $4–7. Info, 748-2600.

STOWE MOUNTAIN FILM FEST Groundbreaking action, adventure, environmental and cultural films greet the snow season. Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum, Stowe. 6 p.m. $7–10 per night; $30 all-film pass. Info, 253-9911.

"THE MILL AND THE CROSS" Lech Majewski's 2011 historical drama chronicles the making of Pieter Bruegel's controversial painting "The Procession to Calvary." Catamount Arts Center, St. Johnsbury. 1:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. $4–7. Info, 748-2600.

"THE WHISTLEBLOWER" & PANEL DISCUSSION As part of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Barbara Whitehurch, Liz Telinck-Moutz and Mira Nlag-lava speak before a screening of Larysa Kondracki's 2010 drama about a human-trafficking scandal. Room 427, Waterman Building, UVM, Burlington. 6:30–9:30 p.m. Free. *Info:* peacewomen@wilpfburlington.org.

food & drink

CANDY-CANE-MAKING DEMO Confectioners boil, pull, turn, roll and twist striped seasonal sweets. Laughing Moon Chocolates, Stowe. 11 a.m. Free to watch; $6 to make your own (preregister). Info, 253-9591.

health & fitness

SERENITY YOGA Gentle poses foster a sense of peacefulness in a deep-relaxation floor class. Unity Church of Vermont, Essex Junction. 6–7 p.m. $5 suggested donation; bring a pillow and blanket if desired. Info, 881-5210.

TAI CHI/QIGONG CLASS Simple techniques, practiced sitting or standing with Madeleine Piat Landolt, enhance physical and emotional well-being. Champlain Senior Center, McClure MultiGenerational Center, Burlington. 2 p.m. Free. Info, 658-3585.

holidays

HELPING HANDS GIFT WRAP Time-crunched shoppers take advantage of quick and pretty packaging while supporting the Burlington Emergency Shelter. University Mall, South Burlington. 9:30 a.m.–8 p.m. Various prices. Info, 862-9879.

WINOOSKI HOLIDAY POP-UP ART MARKET Fine arts, crafts and locally made products fill a vacant space. Entrance to the market is on Main Street, by the top right side of the Winooski circle. 25 Winooski Falls Way, suite 17. noon–8 p.m. Free. Info, 264-4839, info@kasnihouse.com.

kids

BABYTIME. Crawling tots and their parents convene for playtime and sharing. Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston. 10:30 a.m.–noon. Free; preregister. Info, 658-3659.

WED.30 » P.54

LIST YOUR UPCOMING EVENT HERE FOR FREE!
ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE IN WRITING AT NOON ON THE THURSDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION. FIND OUR CONVENIENT FORM AT SEVENDAYSVT.COM/POSTEVENT.

YOU CAN ALSO EMAIL US AT CALENDAR@SEVENDAYSVT.COM. TO BE LISTED, YOU MUST INCLUDE: THE NAME OF EVENT; A BRIEF DESCRIPTION; SPECIFIC LOCATION; TIME; COST; AND CONTACT PHONE NUMBER.

CALENDAR EVENTS IN SEVEN DAYS:
LISTINGS AND SPOTLIGHTS ARE WRITTEN BY CAROLYN FOX. SEVEN DAYS EDITS FOR SPACE AND STYLE. TO CONFIRM DETAILS, CONTACT EVENT ORGANIZERS. CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS MAY BE LISTED IN THE ONLINE CALENDAR OR THE CLASSES SECTION. WHEN APPROPRIATE, CLASS ORGANIZERS MAY BE ASKED TO DESCRIBE A CLASS LISTING.

Growing Pains

If there's something strange in your neighborhood, who you gonna call? *GrowthBusters*, says filmmaker Dave Gardner (pictured). His documentary *GrowthBusters: Hooked on Growth* addresses issues that, he argues, go beyond the neighborhood and affect all of humankind. Water shortages, hunger, the peak oil crisis — all are symptoms of what the film portrays as a global obsession with economic growth and consumption. Having debuted in New York City last month, just days after world population surpassed 7 billion, the film features interviews with a long lineup of experts, including Vermonters Gus Speth, Bill McKibben and Bill Ryerson. And, yes, you can expect to see a *Ghostbusters*-esque outfit or two.

'GROWTHBUSTERS: HOOKED ON GROWTH'
Thursday, December 1, 7 p.m., at room 101, Fleming Museum, UVM, in Burlington. Discussion follows the screening. Free. Info, 656-2906. uvm.edu/gree



COURTESY OF GROWTHBUSTERS

DEC.1 | FILM

Have to Have a Habitat

How does an artist reconcile her childhood crush on David Bowie with her early affection for Beethoven cassettes? Having grown up in the age of pop music and the Internet, composer and keyboardist Missy Mazzoli is "one of several 21st-century composers forging a new home between the club and the concert hall," writes *Time Out New York*. This Friday, she makes her nest at the FlynnSpace. Backed by her electro-acoustic Brooklyn quintet Victoire, Mazzoli's songs reside at the intersection of indie rock and classical, imagine a piano trio colliding with lo-fi electronics. However you label it, the band breeds beguiling original compositions that really do cover new territory.

MISSY MAZZOLI & VICTOIRE
Friday, December 2, 8 p.m., at FlynnSpace in Burlington. $25. Info, 863-5966, flynntix.org.



COURTESY OF CHARLIE GIARDINA

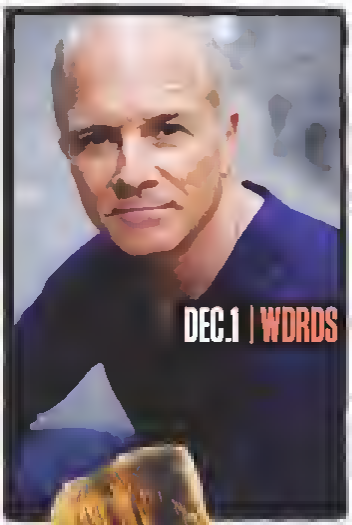
DEC.1-3 | THEATER

The Impossible Dream

Windmills masquerade as four-armed giants. A lowly roadside inn becomes a grand castle. In the eyes of chivalrous knight-errant Don Quixote — the alter-ego of a man driven mad by the world's injustices — even a prostitute is the dainty Lady Dulcinea. Produced by the Middlebury College Musical Players, the college's fully student-run theater operation, *Man of La Mancha* "pairs comedy with some actual substantive messages," says director and senior theater major Charles Giardina. Unlike Broadway's "cotton-candy" comedies, as he dubs them, the work leaves audiences chewing over a valuable theme: the defense of idealism. Author Miguel de Cervantes and his subject both grace the stage in this Tony Award-winning play-within-a-play adaptation.

'MAN OF LA MANCHA'

Thursday December 1 through Saturday December 3, 8 p.m., at McCullough Social Space, Middlebury College. $6-10. Info, 443-3168. middlebury.edu/arts



COURTESY OF CHANDLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

DEC.1 | WORDS

Waking Life

At its 1985 debut, Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* was shocking, urgent and angry — an in-your-face wake-up call about the rise of an unknown disease strangely seeming to affect only gay men. Based on the early years of the epidemic since identified as AIDS, the play captures the passion, uncertainty and fear of the era while chronicling the efforts of Kramer's largely autobiographical protagonist, an LGTB activist named Ned Weeks. A quarter of a century later, the production — which had a short Broadway run last spring — is still hard hitting. It "blasts you like an open, overstoked furnace," wrote the *New York Times*. On World AIDS Day, Newbury actor Dan Butler (pictured) directs a staged reading of the play to benefit Vermont CARES and the HIV/HCV Resource Center.

'THE NORMAL HEART'

Thursday, December 1, 7 p.m., at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph. A reception immediately follows. Donations accepted. Info, 728-6464. chandler-arts.org



COURTESY OF TERRI HAYS TAYLOR

DEC.2 | MUSIC

WED 30 « P.52

ENOSBURGH PLAYGROUP Children and their adult caregivers immerse themselves in singing activities and more. American Legion, Enosburg Falls. 9:15 a.m. Free. Info: 527-5426.

FAIRFIELD PLAYGROUP Youngsters entertain themselves with creative activities and snack time. Bent Northrop Memorial Library, Fairfield, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 527-5426.

HIGHGATE STORY HOUR Good listeners soak up classic fairy tales. Highgate Public Library, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Free. Info: 527-5426.

HOGWARTS READING SOCIETY Fascinated by fantasy? Book club members gab about the wizarding world of Harry Potter and other series. Ilsley Public Library, Middlebury. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 388-4097.

LET'S LEARN JAPANESE! Little linguists get a fun intro to the language and culture of the Land of the Rising Sun with Middlebury College student Jerry Romere. Ilsley Public Library, Middlebury. 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 388-4097.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK GROUP Young people dish about their current reads. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 865-7216.

MIDDLEBURY BABIES & TODDLERS STORY HOUR Children develop early literacy skills through stories, rhymes, songs and crafts. Ilsley Public Library, Middlebury. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Free. Info: 388-4097.

MOVING & GROOVING WITH CHRISTINE Two- to 5-year-olds jam out to rock and roll and world beat tunes. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington. 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 865-7216.

music

'FOUR QUARTETS: VARIATIONS' Four poets, four actors, four trombonists and a percussion quartet breathe life into T.S. Eliot's book-length poem. Davis Center, UVM, Burlington. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 656-3056.

HANDEL SOCIETY OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE. Top-notch soloists and instrumentalists get to work on Handel's *Messiah*. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., 7 p.m., $5-$31. Info: 603-646-2422.

JAZZ VOCAL ENSEMBLE & THURSDAY COMBO Two UVM ensembles present "Bird/Count," a tribute to the music of bebop era composer and saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker and swing-era bandleader Count Basie. UVM Recital Hall, Burlington, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Info: 656-7776.

talks

ELIZA GARRISON Middlebury College's assistant professor of history of art and architecture offers a lecture on "Vision and Visuality on Emperor Henry II's Golden Antependium." The Orchard, Room 103, Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest, Middlebury College. 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 443-6433.

QUEER 101 Respectful listeners join a Q&A discussion about LGBTQ life. The Bristol Hub. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 453-3678.

THE MOLLIE SUPRECHT FUND FOR VISITING ARTISTS & SCHOLARS LECTURE New York City-based Dutch artist Sebastiaan Bremer discusses his unique process directly manipulating photographs. Room 301, Williams Hall, UVM, Burlington, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 656-2014.

theater

AUDITIONS FOR 'AN AFTERNOON IN FRANCE' Salisbury resident David Moar's play to be produced in February by the Middlebury Community Players explores human frailties and strengths within four generations of one family. Town Hall Theater, Middlebury. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 388-7432 or 352-9839.

words

PAINTED WORD POETRY SERIES A series high lighting established and emerging New England poets features Andrea Cohen and Durayshi Ali Lansana. Fleming Museum, UVM, Burlington. 6:7 p.m. Free. Info: 656-0750.

THU.01

business

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY MIXER Theater, film, television and commercial professionals convene to forge friendships, collaborate on artistic projects and share ideas. Spark Arts, Burlington. 7-9 p.m. $5 suggested donation, preregister. Info: 373-4703, nathan@sparkartsvt.com.

VBSR'S CHITTENDEN COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY FORUM & RECEPTION House Speaker Shap Smith participates in a discussion of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility's 2012 legislative agenda and a trio of top lawmakers — Sen. Vincent Illuzzi, Rep. David Sharpe and Sen. Virginia Lyons — weigh in on priorities under the golden dome. A cash bar and snacks follow. Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, Burlington. 3:30-6:30 p.m. Free, preregister. Info: 355-8461, dlanielb@vbsr.org.

comedy

COMEDY @ NOME Standups Ryan Kriger and Denise McCarty goad the giggles before Valley Improv takes the stage with long-form sketches. Lebanon Opera House, N.H., 7 p.m. Donations accepted. Info: 803-448-0400.

community

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL On World AIDS Day, compassionate folks remember the 20 million people worldwide who have died from the disease and show their support for those living with HIV. Rialto Bridge, State St., Montpelier. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 229-5754.

COMMUNITY MEETING Goddard College representatives inform the public of the campus' intention to build a wood-chip heating facility, answer questions and gather feedback. Club Room, Plainfield Fire & Rescue Department, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Info: 322-1674.

dance

JSC DANCE ENSEMBLE Students bring down the house with a high-energy end-of-semester production. Dibden Center for the Arts, Johnson State College. 7 p.m. $5 suggested donation. Info: 635-1476.

etc.

CO-OP TOUR Cash-conscious consumers learn to shop on a budget with health coach Marie Frohlich. Hunger Mountain Co-op, Montpelier. 6-7:30 p.m. $5-7, preregister. Info: 223-8004 ext. 202, info@hungermountain.coop.

COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP NIGHT Steadfast cyclists keep their rides spinning and safe for year-round pedaling. FreeRide Bike Co-op, Montpelier. 6-8 p.m. Donations accepted. Info: 552-3521.

film

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FILM SERIES Foodie film buffs screen *Food, Inc.* Robert Kenner's eye-opening 2008 documentary about the corporate-controlled food industry. Thatcher Brook Primary School, Waterbury. 7 p.m. Donations accepted.

'GROWTHBUSTERS: HOOKED ON GROWTH' Dave Gardner's 2011 documentary looks at the beliefs, attitudes and propaganda surrounding overpopulation. See calendar spotlight. Room 101, Fleming Museum, UVM, Burlington. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 656-2906.

'LOVE CRIME' See WED.30. 7:30 p.m.

STOWE MOUNTAIN FILM FEST See WED.30. 8 p.m.

'THE MILL AND THE CROSS' See WED.30. 5:30 p.m.

WARREN MILLER'S '...LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW' Ski icon Jonny Moseley provides narrative to powder trails everywhere from the Himalayas to New Hampshire's Mount Washington. Flynn MainStage, Burlington. 8 p.m. $21. Info: 863-5966.

food & drink

EAT FOR A GOOD CAUSE Diners chew down to support UVM's Upward Bound scholarship fund. Up to 20 percent of all purchases will be donated. UHO Chicago Grill, South Burlington. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Cost of food and drink; use coupon from uvm.edu/upbound. Info: 656-2961, upbound@uvm.edu.

THE PENNYWISE PANTRY On a tour of the store, shoppers create a custom template for keeping the kitchen stocked with affordable, nutritious eats. City Market, Burlington. 10-11 a.m. Free. Info, 861-9700.

holidays

HELPING HANDS GIFT WRAP See WED.30. 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

HOLIDAY ARTISANS BAZAAR More than 50 artists and crafters from Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine exhibit pottery, weaving, glass work, jewelry, ornaments and other seasonal creations. Chandler Gallery, Randolph, noon-6 p.m. Free. Info: 431-0204.

HOLIDAY CARDS CRAFT Creative types fashion seasons greetings with Stampin' Up! demonstrator Erin Howe. Fairfax Community Library, 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 849-2420.

WINOOSKI HOLIDAY POP-UP ART MARKET See WED.30. noon-8 p.m.

kids

EARLY LITERACY STORY TIME Weekly themes educate preschoolers and younger children on basic reading concepts. Westford Public Library, 11 a.m. Free. Info: 878-5639, westford_pl@vals.state.vt.us.

FLETCHER PLAYGROUP Little ones make use of the open gym before snack time. Fletcher Elementary School, Cambridge. 9-10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 527-5426.

'FOOD FOR THOUGHT' LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS Pizza arrives as companies discussion of books and library projects for teens. Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston. 4-5 p.m. Free. Info: 878-4918.

FRANKLIN STORY HOUR Lovers of the written word perk up for read-aloud tales and adventures with lyrics. Haston Library, Franklin. 10-10:45 a.m. Free. Info: 527-5426.

MIDDLEBURY PRESCHOOLERS STORY HOUR Tiny ones become strong readers through activities with tales, rhymes, songs and crafts. Ilsley Public Library, Middlebury. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Free. Info: 388-4097.

PAJAMA STORY TIME Little kids rock night gowns and flannels as special guests read from books. Fairfax Community Library, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 527-5426.

RICK MARCOTTE CENTRAL SCHOOL BOOK FAIR Three sessions of story time, a crafts table and the third grade's choral performance of holiday music support the school. Barnes & Noble, South Burlington. 4:30-8 p.m. Free. Info: 864-8001.

STUDENT MATINÉE SERIES The Vermont Symphony Orchestra brings Camille Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals* to life against an eye-catching mural backdrop evoking all manner of critters. Flynn MainStage, Burlington. 10 a.m. $8 for grades K through 4. Info: 863-5966.

music

BURLINGTON SONGWRITERS Lyricists share and critique original works. Heineberg Community & Senior Center, Burlington. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Info: 859-1822.

COFFEEHOUSE NIGHTS Moses & the Electric Company deliver danceable grooves. Stearns Performance Space, Johnson State College. 9 p.m. Free. Info: 635-2536.

MUSIC RECITAL Students from Su Lian Tan's music classes sound out original compositions. Mahaney Center for the Arts, Middlebury College. 8 p.m. Free. Info: 443-3168.

MUSIC IN THE LOFT CONCERT SERIES Aaron Flinn executes acoustic Americana. Ten percent of proceeds benefit the Shelburne food shelf. Shelburne Vineyard, 5:30-8 p.m. Free; wine available by the glass (proper ID required). Info, 985-8222.

NATALIE MACMASTER. Fiddling and world-class step dancing fuel ballads and fiery reels alike in "Christmas in Cape Breton." Paramount Theatre, Rutland. 8 p.m. $29.50-39.50. Info, 775-0903.

SMALL JAZZ COMBOS University ensembles go post-bop. Room 301, Southwick Hall, UVM, Burlington. 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Info: 656-7776.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE RECITAL Music scholars take the (various) instruments for a spin on stage. UVM Recital Hall, Burlington, 1-2:30 p.m. Free. Info, 656-7776.

seminars

MORTGAGE LOAN SEMINAR A workshop details financial options related to VA purchasing and refinancing. VFW Post, Essex Junction. 6 p.m. Free; seating is limited, preregister. Info, 866-858-8998 or 926-5658.

theater

'MAN OF LA MANCHA' Author Miguel de Cervantes and his famous windmill-battling protagonist, knight-errant Don Quixote, both appear in the Middlebury College Musical Players' play within-a-play production. See calendar spotlight. McCullough Social Space, Middlebury College. 8 p.m. $6-10. Info: 443-3168.

NATIONAL THEATRE OF LONDON LIVE. **CATAMOUNT ARTS** History inspires John Hodge's *Collaborators*, in which a man is tasked with writing a play about Stalin in the dangerous political climate of 1938 Moscow. The production is broadcast from London via big screen. Catamount Arts Center, St. Johnsbury. 7 p.m. $16.23. Info: 748-2600.

NATIONAL THEATRE OF LONDON LIVE. **LOEW AUDITORIUM** See above listing. Loew Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. 7 p.m. $10.23. Info: 603-646-2422.

NATIONAL THEATRE OF LONDON LIVE. **PALACE 9** See above listing. Palace Cinema 9, South Burlington. 7 p.m. $18. Info: 660-9300.

NATIONAL THEATRE OF LONDON LIVE. **TOWN HALL THEATER** See above listing. Town Hall Theater, Middlebury. 7 p.m. $10.17. Info, 382-9222.

'WHITE CHRISTMAS' Two show biz couples working on a Christmas show in a Vermont

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lodge fall in love in Lamoille County Players' heartwarming musical. Hyde Park Opera House. 7 p.m. $12.16; half price show on December 4. Info, 888-4507.

words

AFTERNOON POETRY & CREATIVE WRITING GROUP. Scribes come together for an artistic exploration of the inner voice led by lit lover Janie Mardis. Champlain Senior Center, McClure MultiGenerational Center, Burlington. 2–3:30 p.m. Free. Info, 658-3585.

"THE NORMAL HEART." Dan Butler directs a staged reading of Larry Kramer's Tony Award–winning play, presented in commemoration of World AIDS Day. See calendar spotlight. Chandler Music Hall, Randolph. 7 p.m. Donations accepted for Vermont CARES and the HIV/HCV Resource Center. Info, 728-6464.

FRI.02

art

POINT-AND-SHOOT PLEASURES. Shutterbugs bring their own cameras to become familiar with the dials, buttons and menus with instructor Bryan Pfeiffer. First Baptist Church, Montpelier. 7–9 p.m. $10. Info, 454-4640.

SENIOR ART CLASSES. Folks ages 55 and up explore drawing, pastels, oil and acrylic paints, printmaking, collages, and sculpture while discussing basic design concepts such as shape, texture and color. Shelburne Bay Senior Living Community. 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. $10; preregister. Info, 864-0604.

dance

ARGENTINEAN TANGO. Shoulders back, chin up! With or without partners, dancers of all abilities strut to bandoneon riffs in a self-guided practice session. Salsalina Studio, Burlington. 7:30–10 p.m. $5. Info, 598-1077.

BALLROOM LESSON & DANCE SOCIAL. Singles and couples of all levels of experience take a twirl. Jazzercize Studio, Williston; lesson 7–8 p.m., open dancing, 8–10 p.m. $14. Info, 862-2269.

BIG-BAND DANCE GALA. A 17-piece orchestra pays homage to the Mambo Kings by producing salsa, mambo and cha-cha grooves well suited for dancing. Vermont Jazz Center, Brattleboro. 8 p.m. $25–28. Includes dessert buffet. Info, 254-9088.

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE. Those keen on Jane Austen's favorite pastime make rural rounds to music by Old Stage Road. All dances are taught, newcomers welcome. Elley-Long Music Center, St. Michael's College, Colchester. 7 p.m. $5; $1 extra for first half hour for experienced dancers. Bring finger food to share. Info, 899-2378.

FALL DANCE CONCERT. Advanced student choreographers present the annual *Newcomer's Piece* and other exciting dance works in a program under the direction of visiting lecturar in-dance Christal Brown, with lighting design by Jennifer Ponder. Dance Theatre, Mahaney Center for the Arts, Middlebury College. 8 p.m. $6–12. Info, 443-6433.

JSC DANCE ENSEMBLE. See THU.01, 7 p.m.

WORCESTER FAMILY DANCE. Movers of all ages take over the dance floor to tunes by High Low Jack and calling by Michael Travis. Town Hall, Worcester. Supper 5:30 p.m., family dance 6:30 p.m., dessert, 8 p.m.; music by Big Hat, No Cattle. 6:30–10 p.m. $5 per person, $8–12 per family. Info, 229-0173.

etc.

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF VERMONT. Expats, well-traveled citizens and Vermonters with a case of wanderlust gather for drinks in an intellectually stimulating atmosphere. Lobby Courtyard Marriott Burlington Harbor. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free; preregister at meetup.com/american-international-club-of-vermont. Info, 347-569-4330.

CURB YOUR CAR DAY. Conscientious citizens support public transit by riding CCTA all day. One participant will win a free 10-ride pass via facebook.com/CCTAride. Various locations, Chittenden County. 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Free. Info, 864-2282.

GROUP EMPOWERMENT DRUMMING. Pounding percussionists give themselves permission to play. This wellness exercise uses drums as a tool for community connection and stress reduction. Spirit Dancer Books & Gifts, Burlington. 7–8 p.m. Donations accepted. Info, 660-8060.

fairs & festivals

VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. Shoppers fête Vermont's multicultural identity at a fair featuring crafts, eats and entertainment from the many cultures within our community. Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction. 5–8 p.m. $3–6; $15 family pass; free for children under 8; half-price family pass available at deals.sevendaysvt.com while supplies last. Tickets are good for the whole weekend! Info, 863-6713.

film

STOWE MOUNTAIN FILM FEST. See WED.30, 6 p.m.

WARREN MILLER'S '...LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW.' See THU.01, 8 p.m.

food & drink

CANDY CANE MAKING DEMO. See WED.30, 11 a.m.

HERBAL VINEGARS. Joann Darling demonstrates how to extract vitamins and minerals from herbs and wild foods to make vinegars that are nutritious and delicious. Hunger Mountain Co-op, Montpelier. 5:30–7:30 p.m. $5–8; preregister. Info, 223-8004 ext. 202, info@hungermountain.com.

games

PAMPERED CHEF BINGO. Players participate in a game of luck to win Pampered Chef products. Proceeds benefit the Rochester School Auditorium Chair Fund and the Rochester School PTO Scholarship Fund. Rochester School. 6:30 p.m. $20. Info, 767-4327.

health & fitness

ALBURGH WALKING GROUP. Neighbors in clean-soled shoes take strides and socialize. Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department. 10–11 a.m. Free. Info, 865-0360.

holidays

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR. Store employees peddle handmade cards, jewelry, food, clothing and other seasonal gifts. Gardener's Supply Company, Burlington. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Free. Info, 660-3505.

CHRISTMAS IN VERMONT. This holiday bazaar highlights the local bounty of crafts, baked treats and attic treasures. St. Ambrose Parish, Bristol. 1–5 p.m. Free. Info, 453-2488.

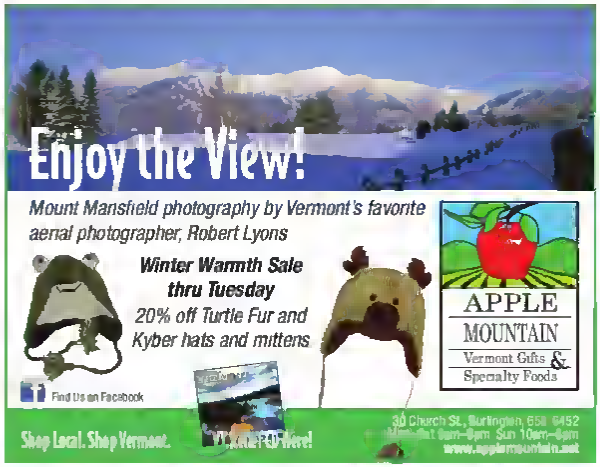
CREATIVE WOMEN HOLIDAY SALE. Gift givers select from an array of hand-woven textiles, ornaments, baskets and jewelry. Chace Mill, Burlington, noon–6 p.m. Free. Info, 658-1211.

FESTIVAL OF TREES. A gala at City Hall kicks off three days of evergreen fun, including a parade, sleigh rides and a Christmas sing-along. See festivaloftreesvt.com for schedule. Various.

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locations St Albans 6.30 p.m. Various prices. Info 527 5116 or 309-4487 Info@festivaloftrees vt.com

HELPING HANDS GIFT WRAP See WED 30, 9:30 a.m. 9 p.m.

HOLIDAY ARTISANS BAZAAR. See THU.01, noon 6 p.m.

HOLIDAY FAIR Adults and older teens contemplate gift options over lattes and opera singing by Erik Kroncke. Lake Champlain Waldorf School Shelburne 6.30 9 p.m. Free. Info 985-2827

HOLIDAY HOP ARTS CRAFTS & WELLNESS FAIR Visitors meet and greet wellness practitioners and artists, sample free Pilates and yoga classes, observe dance rehearsals and more. Chace Mill, Burlington. noon-6 p.m. Free. Info 863 3369 Info@burlingtondances.com

HOLIDAY JUBILEE. Townsfolk make merry over games, children's activities, a scavenger hunt, music, food and more. Event programs available at downtown businesses. Main Street, Johnson 5-8 p.m. Free. Info 644-6506

ILLUMINATION NIGHT The lighting of the tree at the College Hall fountain kicks off musical merriment from the Barre-Tones, Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, 5.30 p.m. Free. Info 828 8580

WINOOSKI HOLIDAY POP-UP ART MARKET See WED.30. noon 8 p.m.

irene benefits

HURRICANE IRENE BENEFIT DANCE The Galaxies featuring Tammy O'Brien and the Hitmen perform to support the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund. Old Lantern, Charlotte, 7-11 p.m. $27.35, free for kids 10 and under. cash bar. Info 663-5966

kids

AUDITIONS FOR 'ANNIE, THE MUSICAL' The Middlebury Community Players seek young actors for this classic story about a spunky Depression-era orphan. Mary Hogan Elementary School, Middlebury. 5 p.m. Free. Info 488 0516

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP Kiddos convene for fun via crafts, circle time and snacks. Health Room, Bellows Free Academy, Fairfax. 9-10:30 a.m. Free. Info 527 5426

ENOSBURG FALLS STORY HOUR Young ones show up for fables and occasional field trips. Enosburg Public Library. 9-10 a.m. Free. Info 933 2328

MONTGOMERY TUMBLE TIME Physical-fitness activities help build strong muscles. Montgomery Elementary School, 10-11 a.m. Free. Info 527 5426

ONCE UPON A TIME Fairy tales and crafts offered by two Middlebury College students occupy kids in grades K through 2. Ilsley Public Library, Middlebury. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Info 388-4097

SWANTON PLAYGROUP Kids and caregivers squeeze in quality time over imaginative play and snacks. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Swanton. 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info. 527 5426

TODDLER TIME Simple crafts, meet books, rhymes and songs in an early literacy session for 1- to 3 year-olds and their caregivers. Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston. 10-10:30 a.m. Free; preregister. Info 878-4918

'YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN' The Little Red Haired Girl, Snoopy and other "Peanuts" favorites pop off the newspaper page in this kid-powered offer from Spotted Pup Productions. StudioThree, South Burlington. 7 p.m. Donations accepted for the Vermont chapter of the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Info 355-6641

language

TERTULIA LATINA Latino Americanos and other fluent Spanish speakers converse *en español*. Radio Bean, Burlington. 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Info 863 3440

music

CHRISTIANNE STOTIJN & JULIUS DRAKE A Dutch mezzo-soprano and collaborative pianist team up to interpret compositions by Schumann, Mahler and Eisler. Concert Hall, Mahaney Center for the Arts, Middlebury College. 8 p.m. $6.25. Info 443 6433

COLCHESTER COMMUNITY CHORUS. A nativity theme shapes compositions from Bach, Rutter, Berlin, Althouse and others. Colchester High School. 7:30 p.m. Donations accepted. Info, 862.3910

JOHN PENOYAR & FRIENDS. The ukulele and guitar player delivers tunes with Todd Sagar and Andrew Albright. Brown Dog Books & Gifts, Hinesburg. 7 p.m. Free. Info 482 5189

LEANY FAMILY CHRISTMAS Eight siblings from Ontario bring a bit o' the Emerald Isle westward with singing, fiddling and step dancing. Chandler Music Hall, Randolph. 7:30 p.m. $42.50-47.50. Info 728-6464

MISSY MAZZOLI & VICTOIRE Stirring together post-rock, minimalism and romanticism, the indie-classical group offers selections from *Cathedral City* and chamber works for violin and electronics. See calendar spotlight. FlynnSpace, Burlington. 8 p.m. $25. Info, 663-5966

NORTHSONG Anne K. Hamilton directs the chamber choir and accompanist Vivian Spates in seasonal selections, such as Handel's *Messiah*. United Church, Barton, 7:30 p.m. $5 suggested donation. Info 895-4942.

THE MICHELE FAY BAND An acoustic quartet stirs up seamlessly blended folk, swing and bluegrass. Lincoln Peak Vineyard, New Haven. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free; cash bar; cheese plates available. Info 388 7368

THE ROBERT CRAY BAND The five-time Grammy winner blends rock, soul, jazz, blues and gospel influences. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe Mountain Resort, 8 p.m. $50. Info, 760-4634

VERMONT PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA & CHORUS Since 1959, the ensemble has presented Handel's ever popular masterpiece *Messiah*. St. Augustine's Catholic Church, Montpelier. 7:30 p.m. $5.15-$32 per family. Info 476-8188

WINTAFEST Pusha T and Rockie Fresh perform at a hip-hop hootenanny. Grand Maple Ballroom, Davis Center, UVM, Burlington. 8:30 p.m. $15-25. Info 863 5966

MORRA SMILEY & VOCO Striking vocals and harmonies inspired by Appalachia and Eastern Europe fill a folk holiday celebration. UVM Recital Hall, Burlington, preperformance talk, 6:30 p.m., concert, 7:30 p.m. $15-20. Info, 656-4455

talks

HAVILAND SMITH The retired CIA station chief opens up about "U.S. Foreign Policy in the Complicated and Incendiary Middle East." Faith United Methodist Church, South Burlington, 2 p.m. $5. Info 864 3516.

JEREMY DAVIS The author of *Lost Ski Areas of Southern Vermont* looks into the downfall of dozens of former ski trails. Historical items from Northeast Slopes, including the oldest ski law in the country, are on display. A pie auction, short film and raffle follow. Town Hall, Corinth, 7 p.m. $10 benefits Northeast Slopes. Info 439-5789.

theater

'MAN OF LA MANCHA' See THU.01. 8 p.m.

'WHITE CHRISTMAS' See THU.01, 7 p.m.

words

ALLISON HOOPER The Vermont Butter & Cheese Creamery cofounder and author of *In a Cheesemaker's Kitchen* discusses European style artisanal-cheese production in a book signing and demonstration. Newport Natural Foods and Montgomery's Café, 4 p.m. Free. Info 334-2626

READING IN TONGUES. Antonella Borra, Greg Delanty, Tina Escaja, Barbara Krohn and Carmen Pont share original poetry in Italian, Gaelic, German and Spanish — as well as the English translations. Flynndog, Burlington, 7 p.m. Free. Info 656.3576

SPOKEN WORD/MUSIC JAM Writers speak their literary minds as a house band backs up 10-minute segments of PG-13 prose, poems, stories and more. Young Writers Project, Champlain Mill, Winooski, 7-9 p.m. Donations accepted. Info, 318-0934

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SAT.03

art

SATURDAY ART SAMPLER Stationery lovers put a personal touch on the holiday season by creating their own block-printed Christmas cards, gift tags, wrapping paper and more. Davis Studio Gallery, Burlington, 10 a.m.–noon. $24, preregister. Info, 425-2700.

bazaars

BURKLYN ARTS HOLIDAY MARKET For the 42nd year, the creations of Vermont artists occupy tabletops alongside festive homemade foods. Lyndon Town School, Lyndonville, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Free. Info, 626-5836.

INTERNATIONAL BOUTIQUE Folks peruse carpets, handbags, silk scarves, inlaid boxes, pashmina shawls and more from Nepal, India, Brazil, Egypt, Haiti and other far-flung locales. Proceeds support Amurtel and Vermont flood relief. Masonic Lodge, Waitsfield, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Free. Info, 496-5500.

conferences

VERMONT COMMUNITY ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE Concerned citizens join energy leaders, municipal officials and regional planners to tackle climate change and identify opportunities to reduce energy costs. Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. $25–30. Info, 866-860-1382, ext. 203.

crafts

SCHIOR CRAFT CLASSES Folks ages 55 and up experiment with applied decoration — flower arranging, jewelry making, glass painting and more — while discussing design concepts and color. Shelburne Bay Senior Living Community, 1:30–3:30 p.m. $10, preregister. Info, 864-0604.

dance

BALLROOM LESSON & DANCE SOCIAL See FRI.02, 7–10 p.m.

CAPITAL CITY CONTRA DANCE Feet in soft-soled shoes make the dance-floor rounds to tunes by the Figments and calling by Nils Fredland. Capital City Grange, Montpelier, 8 p.m., $8. Info, 744-6163.

"CLARA'S DREAM" City Center Ballet puts a fresh spin on *The Nutcracker* in a holiday production with all-new choreography and the classic Tchaikovsky score. Lebanon Opera House, N.H., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. $10–12. Info, 603-448-0400.

FALL DANCE CONCERT See FRI.02, 8 p.m.

"THE NUTCRACKER" Tutu twirlers and dancers in rat masks abound in the North Country Ballet Ensemble and Lake Placid School of Ballet's classic holiday show. Lake Placid Center for the Arts, N.Y., 7:30 p.m. $12–18. Info, 518-523-2512.

"SELF-ADDRESSED" Four separate works — "366 Forest Road," "36 Gardner Avenue," "6838 Westhampton Drive" and "address unknown" — created and directed by Paul Besaw explore the concept of "home." Contemporary Dance & Fitness Studio, Montpelier, 7 p.m. $10. Info, 229-4676.

education

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Parents of preschool-through-kindergarten-aged kids consider an alternative to public ed. International Children's School, South Burlington, 10 a.m.–noon. Free, preregister. Info, 865-3344.

WISDOM OF THE HERBS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Folks interested in wild plants, holistic health and sustainable living learn about the school's nature-based experiential programs with director Annie McCleary and naturalist George Lisi. Tulsi Tea Room, Montpelier, 1–3 p.m. Free. Info, 456-8122, annie@wisdomoftheherbsschool.com.

etc.

LOUISA HOWARD CHAPEL WINTER OPENING Architecture buffs get a gander at the decked halls of this fully restored high-Gothic Victorian nondenominational landmark at Lakeview Cemetery. Louisa Howard Chapel, Burlington, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Free. Info, 863-2075.

PETE'S GREENS OPEN HOUSE The four-season organic vegetable farm unveils its new facility with tours every half hour. Snacks and beverages provided. Pete's Greens, Craftsbury, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Free. Info, 586-2882, ext. 8.

POLAR RIDE & CHILI COOK-OFF Harley owners rev their engines on an 11 a.m. excursion before a hot and spicy chili contest. Green Mountain Harley-Davidson, Essex Junction, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Donations accepted for Burlington Emergency Shelter coat donations accepted. Info, 878-4778, info@greenmtnharley.com.

TOY TRAIN SHOW Mini-locomotives get on track to raise money for the Winooski Dollars for Scholars program. Winooski High School, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. $1–5, free for kids under 8. Info, 655-2555.

WEST AFRICAN JUBA DANCE & DJEMBE DRUM CLASSES Beginning and somewhat-experienced hand drummers learn traditional rhythms and techniques with Guinean master drummer Chimie Bangoura at 11 a.m. Barefoot dancing follows at noon. Burlington Taiko, $15 for djembe class, $12 for dance class. Info, 377-9721, chimiebangoura@hotmail.com.

fairs & festivals

RIVER OF LIGHT LANTERN PARADE Burlington's 20-member band Sambatucada! leads a procession of handmade lanterns through town to the annual tree lighting in a display of cultural awareness. Main Street, Waterbury, 5–6 p.m. Free. Info, mmonley@wdsdvt.org.

VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL See FRI.02, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

film

"ANIMAL KINGDOM" Seventeen-year-old J is pulled into his family's criminal pursuits in Australian director Davie Michôd's intense 2010 drama. Dana Auditorium, Sunderland Language Center, Middlebury College, 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. Free. Info, 443-3168.

STOWE MOUNTAIN FILM FEST See WED.30, 8 p.m.

WOODSTOCK FILM FESTIVAL: WINTER SERIES A town fights to protect a mountain from a major coal-mining operation in Bill Haney's 2011 documentary *The Last Mountain*. Billings Farm & Museum, Woodstock, 3 p.m. $4–10. Info, 457-2355.

food & drink

BURLINGTON WINTER FARMERS MARKET More than 50 local farmers, artisans and producers offer fresh and prepared foods, crafts, and more in a bustling indoor marketplace with live music, lunch seating and face painting. Memorial Auditorium, Burlington, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Free. Info, 310-5172, info@burlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

CALEDONIA WINTER FARMERS MARKET Freshly baked goods, veggies, beef and maple syrup feature prominently in displays of "shop local" options. Welcome Center, St. Johnsbury, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Free. Info, 592-3089.

CANDY-CANE-MAKING DEMO See WED.30, 11 a.m.

CAPITAL CITY WINTER FARMERS MARKET Root veggies, honey, maple syrup and more change

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OVERWEIGHT SUBJECTS WANTED

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If interested, please contact Dr. C. Lawrence Kien at amwadswo@uvm.edu or 802-656-9093.



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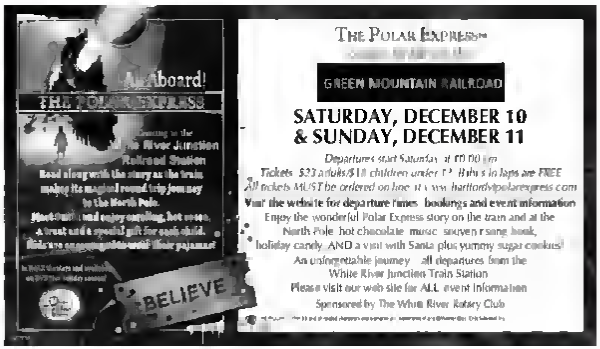
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calendar

hands at an off season celebration of locally grown food. Gymnasium. Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Info 223-2958, manager@montpelierfarmersmarket.com.

CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS WINTER FARMERS MARKET. Baked items, preserves, meats and eggs sustain shoppers in search of local goods. South Hero Congregational Church. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Info 372-3291.

MIDDLEBURY WINTER FARMERS MARKET. Crafts, cheeses, breads and veggies vie for spots in shoppers' totes. American Flatbread, Middlebury. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Info 388-0178, middleburyfm@yahoo.com.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & SILENT AUCTION. Stacks of flapjacks — gluten free and nondairy options among them — are served with applesauce made by the first grade. Music, auction items and student led tours of the school support its place based learning and other educational experiences. Sustainability Academy at Lawrence Barnes School, Burlington. 8:30-11:30 a.m. $3-6, $15 per family. Info 865-0120.

SOUP FESTIVAL & SILENT AUCTION. Holiday shoppers take a break to taste a variety of broths in support of Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services. Bethany Church, Montpelier. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $5-10. Info, 223-2424, soupfestival@gmail.com.

WARMING FOODS FOR WINTER. Light your inner fire as the Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalisms' Betzy Bancroft discusses food as medicine. City Market, Burlington. 10 a.m.-noon. Free; preregister. Info 861-9700.

holidays

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT WINTER HOLIDAY FAIR. Window shoppers eye seasonal art, crafts and baked goods during the Holiday Stroll. Vergennes Union Elementary School. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Nonperishable food donations accepted. Info 877-3761.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR. See FRI 02, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

'BINGLE JELLS. The Kingdom Dixieland Band, Newport Area Community Orchestra Susan Lynn Johns, Allen Cubit and Michelle Streeter present fabulous and frivolous tunes at a dessert cabaret. Memphremagog Arts Collaborative, Newport. 7 p.m. $20-$100. Info, 334-1966.

CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS HOLIDAY HOP. Visitors hit up craft fairs, bake sales, holiday boutiques and more on a winter tour of the five island towns. Email lmthenightplace@gmail.com for a map of activities. Various locations, Champlain Islands. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Info 999-5862.

CHRISTMAS BASKET AUCTION. After the lighting of the town tree, people place their bids on packages of food, wine, cheese, gifts, toys, coffee and Christmas décor. United Church of Westford, 7:30 p.m. Free. Info 879-4028, mhamrel@comcast.net.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. Shoppers take their pick from evergreen wreaths, unique crafts, homemade treats and more. St. Ann Church, Milton, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Nonperishable food donations accepted. Info 893-4012.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & LUNCHEON. Craftspeople arrange fleece goods, quilts, aromatic soaps, note cards and other gift options alongside pies, cakes and holiday treats. Shelburne United Methodist Church, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. chili, soup and cornbread available 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Info 985-3981.

CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM. Families celebrate like it's 1899 with a variety of traditional activities, which may include candle dipping, ornament making, horse-drawn sleigh rides and sledding. Billings Farm & Museum, Woodstock, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Regular admission, $3-12, free for kids 2 and under. Info 457-2355.

CHRISTMAS IN VERMONT. See FRI 02, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

CHRISTMAS IN WESTON. Revelers catch a sleigh ride or carol their way through town at an old-fashioned festival. Various locations, Weston, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Info 228-5830.

COLCHESTER HOLIDAY SHOW. Festive shoppers behold crafts, antiques, baked goods and door prizes galore. Colchester High School, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Santa visits 10 a.m.-1 p.m. $2 admission benefits Colchester students; free for ages 15 and under. Info 264-5700.

CREATIVE WOMEN HOLIDAY SALE. See FRI 02, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

'EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME!). Three actors from Buck Hill Productions take audiences on a mad cap romp through classic holiday tales and traditions. Big Picture Theater & Cafe, Waitsfield, 7:30 p.m. $12-15. Info 496-8984.

FAMILY HOLIDAY FAIR. Games, crafts and a play — *The Crystal Cave of the Snow Queen* — divert lads while the grown-ups check out a huge artisan market. Lake Champlain Waldorf School, Shelburne. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Info 985-2827.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS CHRISTMAS TOUR. Catch some yuletide cheer in the 17 rooms of a 19th century brick mansion. Noyes House Museum, Morrisville. 2-5 p.m. Donations accepted. Info 888-7617.

FESTIVAL OF TREES. See FRI 02, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

FESTIVAL OF WREATHS. Food, music and more than 100 beautiful green boughs mark the start of the winter wonderland. Proceeds benefit the Mary Johnson Children's Center. Town Hall Theater, Middlebury. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. $3 suggested donation per family. Info, 382-9222.

HELPING HANDS GIFT WRAP. See WED 30, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

HOLIDAY ARTISANS' BAZAAR. See THU 01, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR & LUNCHEON. Fresh holiday greens, crafts, secondhand treasures and a silent auction catch shoppers' eyes. Unitarian Church, Burlington. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. $6 for lunch (11 a.m.-1 p.m.). Info 864-3516.

HOLIDAY GALA. Vermonters exchange seasons greetings over live music, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, wine, a silent auction and a exhibit of Phyllis Chase's art. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier. 7 p.m. $50. Info 223-3338.

HOLIDAY GIFT FAIR. Citizen Santas stock up on handmade gifts and decorations. Country Park Apartments, South Burlington. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Info 489-5196.

HOLIDAY HOP: ARTS, CRAFTS & WELLNESS FAIR. See FRI 02, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

HOLIDAY JUBILEE. See FRI 02, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE. Carols played on an 1850s piano and Christmas cookies lend a festive atmosphere to "A Child's Delight," an exhibit of antique toys, vintage train sets, games and decorations in the historic Judd-Herris House. Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, Middlebury. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Donations accepted. Info 388-2117.

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HOLIDAY STROLL A full day of early celebrations includes a craft fair, shiny tunes by the Champlain Brass Quintet, a visit with Santa and a community tree lighting. Visit addison county.com for full schedule. Various locations, Vergennes, 7:30 a.m.–9 p.m. Free. Info 388-7951 ext. 1.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS Visitors tour nine Civil War era dwellings and landmarks on foot or by horse-drawn wagon, starting at Silver Lake Chapel. Various locations, Barnard, noon–4 p.m. $8–$15 per family. Info 234-5227.

RICHMOND HOLIDAY MARKET Santa makes a cameo as folks hop horse-drawn wagon rides and vendors offer holiday gifts and wreaths. Richmond Free Library, Richmond Congregational Church and Richmond Town Hall, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Info 434-3979, richmondholidaymarket@gmavt.net.

THE NORTH POLE EXPRESS All aboard! Families settle into heated vintage coaches as they travel north to pick up elves and the Claus family. Hot cocoa, cookies and caroling provided; pajamas encouraged. The Freighthouse, Lyndonville, noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. $25; preregister. Info 626-1174.

WINDOSKI HOLIDAY POP-UP ART MARKET See WED.30, noon–8 p.m.

kids

BERKSHIRE TUMBLE TIME Provided snacks fuel exercise for tots. Gym, Berkshire Elementary School, 9:30–11 a.m. Free. Info 527-5426.

BILL KOCH YOUTH LEAGUE REGISTRATION DAY Recreational and competitive youth skiers sign on for this Northeast Kingdom Nordic Club program. Burke Mountain Academy, 1–3 p.m. $35 per child. Info 626-9460 or 626-0737.

BRAIN SCIENCE DISCOVERY DAY High schoolers interested in neuroscience and the functions of the human mind participate in anatomy demos, a mini brain bee and more. Middlebury College, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Free; space is limited; preregister. Info 388-2720, vermontbrainbee@gmail.com.

CREATIVE WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN Kid crafters fashion holiday decorations with Deonne Myrick. Chandler Gallery, Randolph, 1–3 p.m. Donations accepted. Info 431-0204.

FAIRFAX TUMBLE TIME Tots burn off some energy in an open gym. Special play area for infants provided. Bellows Free Academy, Fairfax, 10:11:30 a.m. Free. Info 527-5426.

"GOODNIGHT MOON" & "THE RUNAWAY BUNNY" Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia hops onto the stage with puppet theater adaptations of these bedtime staples. Moore Theater, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College, Hanover N.H., 3 p.m. $10–23. Info 603-646-2422.

HORTH NORO TUMBLE TIME Free-play stations around the gym keep youngsters — and their adult companions — on the go. North Hero Elementary School, 10–11:30 a.m. Free. Info, 527-5426.

SANTA COMES TO LYNDON Holiday crafts at the Cobleigh Public Library from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., sandwich the arrival of the man in red — and his elves — at the Darling Inn at noon. Various locations, Lyndonville. Free. Info 626-9696, info@lyndonvermont.com.

SATURDAY FAMILY DROP-INS Young artists of all ages gaze at the current exhibition and make and take home a special piece of art. Parents must accompany their children. BCA Center, Burlington, 10 a.m.–noon. Free. Info 865-7166.

TRAVELING STORYTELLER A roaming raconteur presents *Webster's Christmas*, a story and puppet show about a wolf who catches the holiday spirit. Snacks provided. Ainsworth Public Library, Williamstown, 1–4 p.m. Free. Info 433-5887.

"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN" See FRI.02, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

music

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS" WITH DAVID BENOIT The Stowe Elementary School Chorus joins in as the Grammy-nominated pianist and his quartet revisit Vince Guaraldi's holiday songs and arrangements. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Stowe Mountain Resort, 8 p.m. $45. Info 760-4634.

A GREEN MOUNTAIN COLLEGE CHRISTMAS" Audience members join carol sing-alongs as James Cassalino directs guest musicians and the Green Mountain College choirs and brass band in early American anthems and holiday music from Ireland and Wales. Ackley Hall, Green Mountain College, Poultney, 7 p.m. $5; free for seniors and children. Info 287-8926.

BELLA VOCE WOMEN'S CHORUS OF VERMONT & CANTIAMO Christmas Flourish" features traditional carols and festive arrangements, including Charles Callahan's *Alleluia* and Franz Biebl's *Ave Maria*. First Baptist Church, Burlington, 8 p.m. $15–18. Info 863-5966.

"BROADWAY HOLIDAY" Heartwarming tunes from the Great White Way grace the local stage, thanks to Saint Michael's Playhouse stars Bill Calmichael, Kathryn Markey, Lucy Sorensen and Craig Wells. McCarthy Arts Center, St. Michael's College, Colchester, 7:30 p.m. $27.50. Info 654-2281.

FULL CIRCLE Five females play medieval, renaissance, Celtic, folk and holiday arrangements on the recorder, tin whistle, harp, hammered dulcimer and more. Phoenix Books, Essex, 5–7 p.m. Free. Info 872-7111.

MONTPELIER COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR Voices merge as the a cappella ensemble performs a winter concert, "I'm Not Tired Yet!" North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury, 7 p.m. Donations accepted. Info 778-0881.

ROBERT GLASPER TRIO The improvisational pianist finds the place where jazz and hip-hop intersect. FlynnSpace, Burlington, 8 p.m., $21–25. Info 863-5966.

SOUND INVESTMENT JAZZ ENSEMBLE. Students with big sound get the community hopping around with contemporary jazz. Concert Hall, Mahaney Center for the Arts, Middlebury College, 8 p.m. Free. Info 443-6433.

THE GRIFT ACOUSTIC DUO Clint Bierman and Peter Day forge beautiful harmonies after an hour-long open mic. Ripton Community House, 7:30 p.m. $3–9. Info 388-9782.

THE SMITTENS WITH MISSY BLY & DJ DISCO PHANTOM Burlington's bubblegum indie pop outfit plays tracks from its upcoming full-length album *Believe Me*. BCA Center, Burlington, 8:11 p.m. $7; free for BCA members; cash bar. Info 865-5355.

VERMONT CHORAL UNION "Now Make We Joy" features music for Christmas and Advent spanning five centuries. St. Luke's Church, St. Albans, 7 p.m. $5–15; free for kids under 12. $40 per family. Info 864-4934.

VERMONT FIDDLE ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY CONCERT Guest soloist Beth Telford and the Sap Run Fiddlers compare notes. Capelbreton dancers Sophie Rae and Matt Blouard also perform. Chapel, College Hall, Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, 7 p.m. $12.15; free for ages 12 and under. Info 877-343-3531, info@vtfiddleorchestra.org.

VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MASTERWORKS SERIES Violinist Katherine Winterstein is featured in a concert of powerful works, including Beethoven's Coriolan Overture, Prokofiev's Violin Concerto no. 2 and Schumann's Symphony no. 2. Flynn MainStage, Burlington, 8 p.m. $9–58. Info 863-5966.

outdoors

LAKE CHAMPLAIN BIRDING Explorers seek out lingering migrants and overwintering birds in the wetlands, fields and water bodies of the Champlain Valley. North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. $20.25. Info 229-6206.

WALK IN THE WOODS Folks ramble through a Christmas tree farm with Chittenden County forester Keith Thompson, learning about sugaring operations and farm and forest management. Purinton Family Tree Farm, Huntington, 9 a.m.–noon. Free. Info 747-7900.

seminars

FINAL CUT PRO OPEN LAB Beginning, intermediate and advanced film editors complete three tracks of exercises as a VCAM staff member lends a hand. Preregister. VCAM Studio, Burlington, 2–4 p.m. Free. Info 651-9692.

INTERMEDIATE MICROSOFT WORD Students get savvy about the word processor by learning about advanced features and customization. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, 10:11:30 a.m. $3 suggested donation; preregister. Info 865-7217.

VCAM ACCESS ORIENTATION Video-production hounds get an overview of facilities, policies and procedures. VCAM Studio, Burlington, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Free. Info 651-9692.

XTREME FUEL TREATMENT SEMINAR & GRAND OPENING Eco-friendly folks learn about fuel-saving solutions to rising oil prices at the center's opening day. Xtreme Fuel Treatment Training Center, Essex Junction, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Free. Info 343-3202.

theater

AUDITIONS FOR "ANNIE, THE MUSICAL" The Middlebury Community Players seek adult actors for this classic story about a spunky Depression-era orphan. Mary Hogan Elementary School, Middlebury, 2 p.m. Free. Info 488-0516.

"MAN OF LA MANCHA" See THU.01, 8 p.m.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LIVE IN HD" CATAMOUNT ARTS Renée Fleming stars in a broadcast screening of Handel's *Rodelinda*. Catamount Arts Center, St. Johnsbury, 12:30 p.m. $16–23. Info 748-2600.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LIVE IN HD: PALACE 9 See above listing. Palace Cinema 9, South Burlington, 12:30 p.m. $18.24. Info 660-9300.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LIVE IN HD" SPAULDING AUDITORIUM See above listing. Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., 12:30 p.m. $10–29.50. Info 603-646-2422.

"THE TOYS TAKE OVER CHRISTMAS" This perennial show by UVM Theatre makes adults and children alike believe in Santa Claus. Royall Tyler Theatre, UVM, Burlington, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 8 p.m. $7.18. Info 656-2094.

"WHITE CHRISTMAS" See THU.01, 7 p.m.

words

BERNICE KELMAN The local author of *Bending Reality: The Rook: Conversations With An Interdimensional Teacher* asks listeners to consider which spiritual entities they would seek out. Spirit Dancer Books & Gifts, Burlington, 1:30–3 p.m. Free. Info 660-9060.

MEGAN PRICE The author of *Vermont Wild Adventures* of *Vermont Fish & Game Wardens Volumes 1 and 2* shares her latest tales of wildlife watching. Bear Pond Books, Montpelier, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Free. Info 229-0774.

SUN.04 » P.60

A LEAHY FAMILY CHRISTMAS



Friday, December 2, 7:30 pm
This Canadian powerhouse of eight fiddling and step-dancing brothers and sisters returns with its super-charged holiday show
Reserved: Advance $42.50, Day of show $47.50
Sponsored by Randolph National Bank, VPR and The Point Lodging sponsor The Three Stallion Inn

Chandler!
71-73 Main St • Randolph, VT
Tickets: 802-728-8464 • chandler-arts.org

The University of Vermont
The Center for Research on Vermont Presents
Change and Resilience in Vermont Food Systems
Research and the Implementation of the Farm to Plate Strategic Plan
Thursday, December 8, 7:30PM
Billings North Lounge, UVM
Free & Open to the Public
Info 656-1317



A cross-disciplinary team of UVM graduate students, under the guidance of Glenn McRae PhD, explores the current state of research initiatives in Vermont and their connections to and support of Vermont's Farm-to-Plate Strategic Plan.
Sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Food Systems Spire

AUCTIONS
2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH CAMP/COTTAGE



Fri., Dec. 16 @ 11AM Register from 10AM
63 Causeway Rd., Colchester, VT
Open House Thursday, Dec 1 • 2-4PM
2 BR, 1 BA nicely remodeled camp/cottage on leased land. Near the lake with easy access to the bike trail. Property features an open floor plan, fireplace and deck.
3,998± SF COMMERCIAL BUILDING on 1.86± ACRES



Fri., Dec. 16 @ 1PM • Register from 12PM
151 Jasper Mine Rd., Colchester, VT
Open House Thursday, Dec 1 • 11AM-1PM
Off Route 2, with easy access to I-89
8,000± DVDs $3/ea or 4/$10 Blu-ray $5/ea
Sat., Dec. 3, 8AM-2PM *A variety of games!*
Thomas Hirchak Co., 131 Dorset Ln., Williston, VT
Info & Terms: THCAuction.com
THOMAS HIRCHAK CO. 800-634-7653

SAT 03 « P 59

SUN.04

bazaars

BURKLYN ARTS HOLIDAY MARKET See SAT 03, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL BOUTIQUE See SAT 03, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

dance

CONTACT IMPROVISATION & MOVEMENT EXPLORATION JAM Attendees practice spur of the moment movements after a half hour of skill building. Musicians are welcome to chime in. Contemporary Dance & Fitness Studio, Montpelier, 10 a.m.–noon. $5. Info 778-0300 or 318-3927.

GENTLE, SAFE & SUBTLE MOVEMENT CLASS Contact improvisation, partner yoga and experiential anatomy play rules in an exploration of body language with Abbi Jaffe. Contemporary Dance & Fitness Studio, Montpelier, 1:30–3:30 p.m. $15; preregister. Info, 318-3927, abbi.jaffe@gmail.com.

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING Movers bring clean, soft soled shoes and learn traditional circle or line dances. Partners not required. Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, Burlington, 7:25–9:30 p.m. $2; free for first timers. Info, 888-5706, portico@stowevt.net.

"THE NUTCRACKER" See SAT 03, 1 p.m.

fairs & festivals

VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. See FRI 02, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

film

"ST. OLAF CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL LIVE" A video retrospective of this 100 year old holiday musical celebration precedes a two hour live concert featuring more than 500 student musicians. Palace Cinema 9, South Burlington, 3:30 p.m. $18.20. Info, 660-9300.

food & drink

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST The Ladies Auxiliary sponsors a gathering for that all important first meal of the day. VFW Post, Essex Junction, 9–11 a.m. $3.7. Info, 878-0700.

health & fitness

OPEN MEDITATION CLASSES Harness your emotions and cultivate inner peace through the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. Laughing River Yoga, Burlington, 1–3 p.m. $5–15 suggested donation. Info, 684-0452, vermontrsi@gmail.com.

holidays

CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM See SAT 03, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

FESTIVAL OF TREES See FRI 02, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

HELPING HANDS GIFT WRAP See WED 30, 9:30 a.m.–9 p.m.

HOLIDAY ARTISANS' BAZAAR See THU 01, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE. See SAT 03, noon–4 p.m.

SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS Architecture buffs peek into old homes around the village, pausing for an organ recital and art show. Arvin A. Brown Library, Richford, 1–4 p.m. $9.10. Info, 848-3313.

THE NORTH POLE EXPRESS See SAT 03, noon–2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.

ODONOSKI HOLIDAY POP-UP ART MARKET See WED 30, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

kids

BOOK FAIR Crafting tables, story times, music and more support the Milton Family Community Center. Barnes & Noble, South Burlington, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Free; partial proceeds from store purchases benefit the center (code needed). Info, 893-1457.

CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR Literary offerings including Jewish books for toddlers, preschoolers and school age children. Abake sale supplies tasty homemade Kosher treats. Gan Yeladim Preschool, Burlington, noon–2 p.m. Free. Info, 658-9317.

'HARRIS BURDICK' WRITING CONTEST AWARD RECEPTION Young writers submitted their own stories to accompany Chris Van Allsburg's intriguing illustrations in *The Chronicles of Harris Burdick*. Winners in two categories are chosen. Vermont Book Shop, Middlebury, 4 p.m. Free. Info, 388-4097.

'YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN' See FRI 02, 2 p.m.

language

DIMANCHES. Novice and fluent French speakers brush up on their linguistics — *en français*. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, 4–5:30 p.m. Free. Info, 864-5088.

music

BELLA VOCE WOMEN'S CHORUS OF VERMONT & CANTIAMO See SAT 03, 3 p.m.

'BROADWAY DIRECT' Big-stage veteran Bill Carmichael headlines a night of classic holiday tunes alongside Lucy Sorensen, Kathryn Markey and Craig Wells. Scott Nicholas provides piano accompaniment. Vergennes Opera House, 4 p.m. $20–25; free for ages 12 and under. Info, 877-6737.

HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH' Soloists Marybeth McCaffrey, Amy Frostman, Camaron Steinmetz and Richard Mazzaferro accompany the Rutland Area Chorus in this Baroque-era holiday masterpiece. Grace Congregational Church, Rutland, 3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. Donations. Info, 775-4301.

MU 258 PRESENTATION RECITAL. Students from UVM's Advanced Jazz Composition and Arranging Class debut original works. UVM Recital Hall, Burlington, 7:30–9 p.m. Free. Info, 656-7776.

'MESSIAH' SING ALONG Carl Recchia conducts a dozen notable musicians and the audience in one of the most beloved choral pieces. Congregational Church, Charlotte, 5 p.m. $7 suggested donation. $10 suggested donation per family. Info, 985-5617.

MONTPELIER COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR See SAT 03, Bethany Church, Montpelier, 4 p.m.

NORTHSONG See FRI 02, United Church of Newport.

ORCHESTRAPALOOZA All VYOA orchestras and choruses come together in a musical blowout. Flynn MainStage, Burlington, 4 p.m. $5–15. Info, 863-5966.

OTTER CREEK CHORAL SOCIETY Wayne Hobbs directs a holiday concert. Works range from Vivaldi's *Gloria* to Celtic Christmas selections to traditional carols. Vergennes Congregational Church, 2 p.m. $8–10; free for ages 6 and under. Info, 877-2921.

VERMONT CHORAL UNION See SAT 03, Recital Hall, McCarthy Arts Center, St. Michael's College, Colchester, 3 p.m.

VERMONT PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA & CHORUS See FRI 02, Barre Opera House.

'WINTER'S WARM MUSIC' Choral selections from all over the globe illuminate different faith and spiritual perspectives. Fleming Museum, UVM, Burlington, 3–4:30 p.m. $3.5; $10 per family; free for kids under 7; museum members, UVM faculty and staff, and college students with ID. Info, 656-7776.

sport

RÍ RÁ'S SANTA 5K RUN & WALK Crowds decked out in red velour with fuzzy white trim go the distance in Vermont's first all-Santa road race. A full, traditional Irish breakfast follows. Proceeds support the Vermont chapter of the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Rí Rá Irish Pub, Burlington, 9:30–11 a.m. $25–30; includes Santa suit to keep and breakfast. Info, 495-3921, leslie.davisstone@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S PICKUP SOCCER Ladies of all ages and abilities break a sweat while passing around the spherical polyhedron. Miller Community and Recreation Center, Burlington, 6–8 p.m. $3. Info, 862-5091.

theater

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LIVE IN HD: CATAMOUNT ARTS See SAT 03, 12:30 p.m.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LIVE IN HD: SPAULDING AUDITORIUM See SAT 03, 12:30 p.m.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LIVE IN HD: TOWN HALL THEATER See SAT 03, Town Hall Theater, Middlebury, 1 p.m. $24. Info, 382-9222.

'THE TOYS TAKE OVER CHRISTMAS' See SAT 03, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m.

'WHITE CHRISTMAS' See THU 01, 2 p.m.

words

JANE AUSTEN IN VERMONT: BIRTHDAY TEA & LECTURE Austen addicts raise their pinkies as guest UVM lecturer Rebecca McLaughlin speaks about "A Second Chance for Sense and Sensibility" Manannan's Heroine." Hauke Campus Center, Champlain College, Burlington, 2–5 p.m. $5–20; preregister. Info, 343-2294, jasnavermont@gmail.com.

JIM STAPLETON & DIANA BIGELOW The husband and wife team weaves together songs and stories in "Return to the Sanctuary" a 75 minute program that creates a reverence for the natural world. Community Church, Ripton, 4–5 p.m. Donations accepted. Info, 388-1634 or 453-5060.

WOMEN'S POETRY GROUP Writers give and receive feedback on their poetic expressions in a nonthreatening, nonacademic setting. Private home, Burlington, 3 p.m. Free. Info, 829-5452, 950 jcpoet@bellsouth.net.

MON.05

bazaars

INTERNATIONAL BOUTIQUE. See SAT 03, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

business

CHITTENDEN COUNTY NPO LEGISLAYIVE BREAKFAST Vermont nonprofits discuss how this years legislative session can address bud get shortfalls and increasing public need. First Congregational Church, Burlington, 7:30–9 a.m. Free. Info, 862-1645, ext. 21.

dance

WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLASS Dancers of all ability levels twirl to the blues and a variety of other tunes at weekly lessons. Town Hall Theater, Middlebury, 6:30–7:30 p.m. $15. Info, 388-1436, karencdance@comcast.net.

environment

RUTTON UP VERMONT Flame and small business owners learn to lock in heat and lower fuel costs through simple home improvements. Franklin Conference Center, Rutland, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Free. Info, 371-5162, ext. 5433.

film

CINÉ SALON A series devoted to 16mm film seeks to enlighten with clips in "100 Films to See Before It's Too Late." Howe Library, Hanover, N.H., 7 p.m. Free. Info, 603-643-4120.

health & fitness

AURA-CLEARING CLINIC Call to reserve an energy healing session and investigation of the state of your field of radiation. Sessions start every 15 minutes. Golden Sun Healing Center, South Burlington, 6–7 p.m. Free. Info, 922-9090.

GENTLE GRATITUDE YOGA. Easy lying, sitting and standing poses improve balance, coordination and flexibility, and encourage an appreciation for life. Unity Church of Vermont, Essex Junction, 10–11:30 a.m. $5 suggested donation; bring a yoga mat. Info, 881-5210.

GENTLE YOGA FOR EVERYONE Yogis ages 55 and up participate in a mostly seated program presented by Champlain Valley Agency on Aging's Neighbor-to-Neighbor AmeriCorps program. McAuley Square Senior Housing, Burlington, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Free. Info, 865-0360.

HERBAL CLINIC Folks learn to improve their health with herbal medicines at a personalized, confidential consultation with faculty and students from the Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism. City Market, Burlington, 4–7 p.m. Free; preregister. Info, 861-9700.

ZUMBA GOLD Invigorating Latin music fosters a party like workout atmosphere for baby boomers and active older participants. Champlain Senior Center, McClure MultiGenerational Center, Burlington, 5:15–6 p.m. Free. Info, 658-3585.

holidays

HELPING HANDS GIFT WRAP See WED 30, 9:30 a.m.–9 p.m.

WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY Library lovers deck the halls with seasonal décor after an a cappella concert by the CVU Madrigal Singers. Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston, 6 p.m. Free. Info, 878-4918.

kids

CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR See SUN 04, 9:30–10 a.m. & 3:5:30 p.m.

ISLE LA MOTTE PLAYGROUP Stories and crafts make for creative play. Yes, there will be snacks. Isle La Motte Elementary School, 10–11 a.m. Free. Info, 527-5426.

LET'S LEARN JAPANESE! See WED 30, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY MALL MAGIC Adam Wilber's sleight of hand awes and amazes kids and parents. JCPenney Court, University Mall, South Burlington, 6:30–7 p.m. Free. Info, 863-1066, ext. 11.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT WITH MAY Caregivers and their charges lace up their dancing shoes for a fun and educational session with May Poduschnik. Ilsley Public Library, Middlebury, 10:30–11:15 a.m. Free. Info, 388-4097.

MUSIC WITH RAPHAEL. Preschoolers up to age 5 bust out song and dance moves to traditional and original folk music. Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston, 10:45 a.m. Free. Info, 878-4918.

STORIES WITH MEGAN Preschoolers ages 2 to 5 expand their imaginations through storytelling, songs and rhymes. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, 11–11:30 a.m. Free. Info, 865-7216.

SWANTON PLAYGROUP Kids and caregivers squeeze in quality time over imaginative play and snacks. Mary Babcock Elementary School, Swanton, 9:30–11 a.m. Free. Info, 527-5426.

'WE THE PEOPLE' America's founding fathers — the original "boy band" — trade their powdered

wigs for power chords in this patriotic and plucky show by Theatrewerks USA. For grades 4 to 8. Lebanon Opera House, N.H. 10 a.m. $5-10. Info, 603-448-0400.

music

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES CONCERT Trios, quartets and quintets keep it classical. UVM Recital Hall, Burlington, 7:30–9 p.m. Free. Info, 656-7776.

MUSICIAN JAM Singers and instrumentalists mingle at a casual recording session. The tunes may be edited and shortened for TV or radio play. Vibesville Audio & Visual Production Studio, Essex, 4–8 p.m. Free. Info, website@stephpappas.com.

'OPUS 23' Professional musicians perform original compositions by students in Vermont and Connecticut schools. Elley-Long Music Center, St. Michael's College, Colchester, 6:30–8 p.m. Donations accepted. Info, 879-0065.

RECORDER-PLAYING GROUP Musicians produce early folk and baroque melodies. Presto Music Store, South Burlington, 7–8:30 p.m. Free. Info, 658-0030, info@prestomusic.net.

THE CHAMPLAIN ECHOES. New singers are invited to chime in on four-part harmonies with a woman's a cappella chorus at weekly open rehearsals. Pines Senior Living Community, South Burlington, 6:15–8:15 p.m. Free. Info, 658-0398.

seminars

SPEND SMART Vermonters learn savvy skills for stretching bucks and managing money. Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, Burlington, 10 a.m.–noon. Free. Info, 860-1414, ext. 104.

sport

COED DODGEBALL. Players break a sweat chucking and sidestepping foam balls at this friendly pickup competition. Arrive early to form teams. Orchard School, South Burlington, 7–8 p.m. $5. Info, 598-8539.

talks

LOUIS J. SALOME In a foreign-policy lecture series, the journalist and author gives the scoop on "Violence, Veils and Bloodlines: Reporting From War Zones." Faith United Methodist Church, South Burlington, 2 p.m. $5. Info, 864-3518.

theater

NATIONAL THEATRE OF LONDON LIVE. CATAMOUNT ARTS. See THU.01, 7 p.m.

words

MARJORIE CADY MEMORIAL WRITERS GROUP Budding wordsmiths improve their craft through "homework" assignments, creative exercises and sharing. Tisley Public Library, Middlebury, 10 a.m.–noon. Free. Info, 388-2926, cpotter935@comcast.net.

SHARED MOMENTS OPEN MIC Green Candle Theatre Company's Recille Hemrell organizes an evening of spontaneously told true tales about pivotal life events. Unitarian Church, Burlington, 7:30 p.m. Donations accepted. Info, 863-1754.

EXTEMPO. LIVE ORIGINAL STORYTELLING Amateur raconteurs deliver polished 5- to 7.5-minute-long true stories at an open-mic evening, sans note cards. The CineClub, Savoy Theater, Montpelier, 8 p.m. Free to participants (sign up in advance); $5 otherwise. Info, 229-0598.

TUE.06

bazaars

INTERNATIONAL BOUTIQUE See SAT.03, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

business

AWAKENING 2012: MINDFULNESS-BASED BUSINESS-VISIONING WORKSHOP & NETWORKING EVENT See WED.30, 10 Church St., Studio 8, Burlington, 5:45–8:30 p.m.

PREPARING FOR EXPORT SUCCESS Food and farm business owners learn about expanding their presence in the international marketplace by hearing from industry experts and participating in interactive discussions. Capital Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, Montpelier, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. $25; preregister. Info, 828-3350.

dance

THE ROYAL BALLET'S 'THE SLEEPING BEAUTY' The leading English ballet company captures the beauty and grandeur of this fairy tale in a broadcast production. Catamount Arts Center, St. Johnsbury, 7 p.m. $6.15. Info, 748-2600.

environment

BUTTON UP VERMONT See MON.05, VSECU, Montpelier, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Free. Info, 371-5162, ext. 5433. Cabot Public Library, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Free. Info, 921-5990.

etc.

COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP NIGHT See THU.01, 6–8 p.m.

film

'CHICAGO THE BAND PRESENTS: AN EVENING OF HOLIDAY MUSIC AND GREATEST HITS' The American rock band makes merry in a broadcast of songs off their new holiday album and behind the scenes footage. Palace Cinema 9, South Burlington, 7 p.m. $12.50. Info, 660-9300.

'HOLIDAY INN' The Catamount Community Film Series brings old Hollywood favorites back to the big screen. Catamount Arts Center, St. Johnsbury, 1:30 p.m. Free. Info, 748-2600.

health & fitness

CHAIR YOGA & TAI CHI Slow, gentle movements aid stress reduction, balance and flexibility. Unity Church of Vermont, Essex Junction, 10–11 a.m. $5 suggested donation. Info, 881-5210.

RELAX & DE-STRESS WITH MASSAGE. Attendees give and receive seated shoulder massages in an informational workshop with Greenheart Massage's Sarah Shapiro. Hunger Mountain Co-op, Montpelier, 5:30–7:30 p.m. $5–7 preregister. Info, 223-8004, ext. 202, info@hungermountain.coop.

TAI CHI Easy, intentional poses for intermediates increase chi, or energy flow, in a four-week cycle. Unity Church of Vermont, Essex Junction, 6:30–7:30 p.m. $5 suggested donation. Info, 881-5210.

WOMEN & GIRLS ZUMBA CLASS Fast-paced rhythms fuel a Latin-inspired dance-fitness party led by Casey Clark. Chabad of Vermont, Burlington, 7–8 p.m. $7. Info, 658-5770.

holidays

HELPING HANDS GIFT WRAP See WED.30, 8:30 a.m.–9 p.m.

kids

CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR: See SUN.04, 9–10 a.m. & 3–5 p.m.

TUE.06 » P.63







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TUE 06 « P61

CREATIVE TUESDAYS Artists engage their imaginations with recycled crafts. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, 3-5 p.m. Free. Info 865-7216.

FAIRFAX STORY HOUR Good listeners are rewarded with folklore, fairy tales, crafts and activities. Fairfax Community Library, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Free. Info 527-5246.

GRAND ISLE PAJAMA STORY TIME Listeners show up with blankets for bedtime tales. Grand Isle Free Library, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Info 527-5426.

NIGHGATE STORY HOUR See WED.30, 10-11 a.m.

MORNING PLAYGROUP Astrologer Mary Anna Abouzahra leads storytelling inspired by seasonal plants, fruits and flowers before art activities, games and an optional walk. Tuisi Tea Room, Montpelier, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info 223-0043.

MUSIC WITH ROBERT Music lovers of all ages engage in sing-alongs. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Info 865-7216.

PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR Stories, rhymes and songs help children become strong readers. Sarah Partridge Community Library, East Middlebury, 10:30-11 a.m. Free. Info 388-4097.

SCIENCE & STORIES "WINTER TREES" Kids have aha! moments regarding evergreens. ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center/Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Burlington, 11 a.m. Regular admission, $9.50-12.50; free for kids ages 2 and under. Info, 877-324-6386.

SOUTH HERO PLAYGROUP Free play, crafting and snacks entertain children and their grown-up companions. South Hero Congregational Church, 10-11 a.m. Free. Info, 527-5426.

ST ALBANS PLAYGROUP Creative activities and storytelling engage the mind. St. Lukes Church, St. Albans, 9:30-11 a.m. Free. Info, 527-5426.

STORY HOUR Picture books and crafts catch the attention of 3- to 5-year-olds. Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston, 11 a.m. Free. Info, 878-4918.

STORY TIME FOR TOTS. Three- to 5-year-olds savor stories, songs, crafts and company. Carpenter-Carse Library, Hinesburg, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Info, 482-2878.

TODDLER STORY TIME Tots 3 and under discover the wonder of words. Carpenter-Carse Library, Hinesburg, 9:30-10 a.m. Free. Info, 482-2878.

language

PAUSE CAFÉ French speakers of all levels converse en français. Levity Café, Burlington, 6:30 p.m. Free. Info, 864-5088.

music

AFRICAN MUSIC & DANCE ENSEMBLE. Students in visiting assistant professor of music Damascus Kafumbe's class offer a lively end-of-semester concert of East African instrumentals, vocals and dance. Ugandan performer Kinobe joins in. Concert Hall, Mahaney Center for the Arts, Middlebury College, 8 p.m. Free. Info, 443-3168.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CHORUS Men who like to sing learn four-part harmonies at an open meeting of this all-guy barbershop group. St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, 7-9 p.m. Free. Info, 878-3105.

JIM BRICKMAN'S "A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION" Old and new holiday hits and popular piano pieces come into play with the help of some special guests. Flynn MainStage, Burlington, 7:30 p.m. $28.75-70.50. Info, 863-5966.

LATIN JAZZ ENSEMBLE & UVM JAZZ NONET Two music groups compare notes in a concert of diverse works. Room 301, Southwick Hall, UVM, Burlington, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Info, 656-7776.

"MESSIAH" SING-ALONG Citizen vocalists bring their own score or borrow one at the door in this community concert with organist David Neiweem. College Street Congregational Church, Burlington, 7 p.m. Free. Info, 878-5919.

UNIVERSITY CATAMOUNT SINGERS The ensemble vocalizes winter-themed choral works. St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington, 12:15-1:30 p.m. Free. Info, 656-7776.

VIOLIN CONCERT Advanced students of Carolyn Bever's violin studio in Essex Junction take a bow. JCPenney Court, University Mall, South Burlington, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Info, 863-1066, ext. 11.

seminars

BASIC INTRODUCTION TO CAMERA USE Budding videographers learn about media production using public access video cameras. 294 North Winooski Ave., Burlington, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info, 862-3966, ext. 16; morourke@cctv.org.

SPEND SMART See MON.05, 6-8 p.m.

talks

"CHANGE HAPPENS" Guest speakers Shap Smith, David Yacavone, Scott Johnson, Dongen Keeney Joyce, Judy and Harper Gay address poverty in Lamoille County. Tammy Fletcher and Jon Gallmor provide musical entertainment. Lawrence Earle reads poetry. Johnson Elementary School, 6-8:30 p.m. Monetary or food donations accepted. Info, 888-4258.

VALERIE BONY In "Evolution, Etiology and What's Wrong With 'Born Gay'" the professor of English analyzes antigay and ostensibly pro-gay arguments to explore the vocabulary of evolutionary theory. Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building, UVM, Burlington, 5 p.m. Free. Info, 656-3166.

theater

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" Five capable actors and a busy sound-effects wiz bring Frank Capra's classic holiday story to life as a radio broadcast performed in front of a live audience. Montpelier City Hall Auditorium, 7 p.m. $10-15; free for children under 11 with paying adult. Infants and toddlers not admitted to the theater. Info, 229-0492.

WED.07

activism

VERMONT LIBERTARIAN PARTY CAUCUS Voters in Essex and Essex Junction who have not yet participated in another caucus this year convene. 32 Pine Crest Dr., Essex, 7-8 p.m. Free. Info, 310-9537.

bazaars

INTERNATIONAL BOUTIQUE See SAT.03, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

business

LANDING A CAREER IN VERMONT: CAREER-SEEKING STRATEGIES FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS Human resources professionals from Green Mountain Coffee Logic Supply, MyWebGrocer and Sphenion lead a panel discussion about the local job market. Alumni Auditorium, Champlain College, Burlington, 5:30 p.m. Free. Info, 999-1571.

comedy

IMPROV NIGHT See WED.30, 8-10 p.m.

dance

"TAXING FLIGHT" Up-and-coming choreographers introduce their lightly produced dance experiments, facilitated by artist in residence Tiffany Rhynard. Dance Theatre, Mahaney Center for the Arts, Middlebury, 4:30 p.m. Free. Info, 443-3168.

environment

BUTTON UP VERMONT See MON.05, Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

etc.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY PHILATELIC CLUB Stamp collectors of all levels of interest and experience swap sticky squares and stories about them. GE Healthcare Building, South Burlington, 6:15 p.m. Free. Info, 860-4817; kirneyrapp@yahoo.com.

film

"HOLIDAY INN" See TUE.08, 7 p.m.

food & drink

CANDY-CANE-MAKING DEMO See WED.30, 11 a.m.

health & fitness

SERENITY YOGA See WED.30, 5:15-7 p.m.

TAI CHI/QIGONG CLASS See WED.30, 2 p.m.

holidays

HELPING HANDS GIFT WRAP See WED.30, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE Secondhand tomes make for gifts that are twice as nice. Rutland Free Library, 4-8 p.m. Free. Info, 773-1860.

WINOOSKI HOLIDAY POP-UP ART MARKET See WED.30, noon-8 p.m.

kids

ENOSBURGH PLAYGROUP See WED.30, 9-11 a.m.

FAIRFIELD PLAYGROUP See WED.30, 10-11:30 a.m.

NIGHGATE STORY HOUR. See WED.30, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

LET'S LEARN JAPANESE! See WED.30, 4:30 p.m.

MIDDLEBURY BABIES & TODDLERS STORY HOUR See WED.30, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

MOVING & GROOVING WITH CHRISTINE See WED.30, 11-11:30 a.m.

PAJAMA STORY TIME Kids up to age 6 wear their jammies for evening tales. Arvin A. Brown Library, Richford, 6-7 p.m. Free. Info, 527-5426.

STORY TIME WITH MRS. CLAUS. Cookies and milk enhance Christmas tales read by Santa's jolly wife. Kids and parents encouraged to come wearing pajamas. JCPenney Court, University Mall, South Burlington, 6:30-7 p.m. Free. Info, 863-1066, ext. 11.

music

CHERISH THE LADIES Traditional Irish harmonies are set to step dancing in "A Celtic Christmas." Flynn MainStage, Burlington, 7:30 p.m. $15-42. Info, 863-5966.

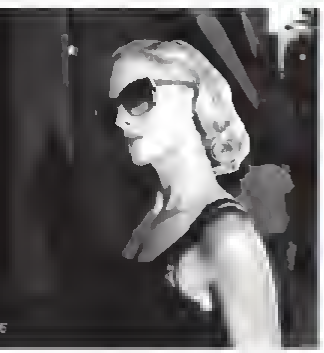
JSC MUSIC ENSEMBLES. Various student groups end the semester with a healthy dose of funk, fusion, jazz, Afro-Cuban and percussion. Dibden Center for the Arts, Johnson State College, 7 p.m. Free. Info, 635-1478.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE. University musicians keep the beat. Room 301, Southwick Hall, UVM, Burlington, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Info, 656-7776.

STUDENT RECITAL. Students of pianist and harpsichord st.Cynthia Huard offer key works by Ravel, Rachmaninoff, Barber and Debussy. Mahaney

WED 07 » P65

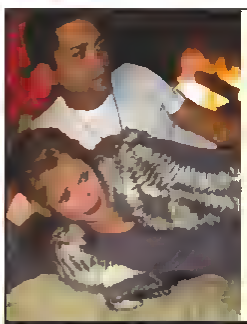
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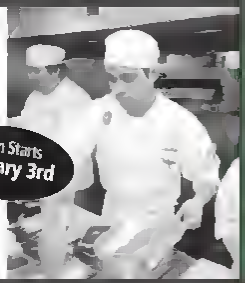
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Tree Lighting & NECI Cookie Decorating demo at State & Main, Dec. 3rd

See Santa Saturday, December 3rd

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Center for the Arts, Middlebury. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 443-3168.

TRIBUTE TO UTAH PHILLIPS & CD-RELEASE PARTY Duncan Phillips, Dan Schatz, Paul Rasmussen, Doug Wintch, Anke Summerhill and Rik Palieri honor the activist and folk singer with songs from *Long Gone Utah Remembers Bruce "Utah" Phillips*. North End Studio A, Burlington, 8 p.m. $12. Info: 863-6713.

talks

ALAN FERN National Portrait Gallery's executive director discusses various "Approaches to the American Landscape" in connection to the reopening of the Athenaeum's art gallery. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 7 p.m. Free. Info: 748-8291, info@vermonthumanities.org.

DAVID SANGER The *New York Times* chief Washington correspondent offers an insider's perspective in "Is There an Obama Doctrine?" Auditorium, Essex High School, 7 p.m. Free. Info: 262-2626, info@vermonthumanities.org.

EDWARD TICK This expert on posttraumatic stress disorder considers "War and the Soul: Transforming Our Communities to Heal Our Veterans." Rutland Free Library, 7 p.m. Free. Info: 773-1860.

JIM COOKE In "Calvin Coolidge: More Than Two Words," the actor takes listeners back to the Roaring Twenties with a living-history presentation packed with historic letters and speeches. Goodrich Memorial Library, Newport, 7 p.m. Free. Info: 334-7902.

JULES FEIFFER The Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist goes "Funny Side Up" in an examination of cartoons. Congregational Church, Norwich, 7 p.m. Free. Info: 649-1184.

PLANNING VERMONT'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE Tom McGrath, Kevin Behm and Kevin Lehman discuss the "Clean Cities" design concept, eco-driving, hybrid cars and electrical charging stations. Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Middlebury, 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 385-1511 or 388-3141.

SY MONTGOMERY No monkey business. In "Walking With the Great Apes," the best-selling author chronicles the scientific successes of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey and Birut Galdikas. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier, 7 p.m. Free. Info: 223-3338, info@vermonthumanities.org.

TOM POWERS The Pulitzer Prize-winning author chronicles the rise and fall of a Lakota warrior in "The Killing of Crazy Horse." Ilsley Public Library, Middlebury, 7 p.m. Free. Info: 388-4095, info@vermonthumanities.org.

theater

'ANNIE' Leapin' lizards! The famous little orphan graces the stage with heartwarming musical favorites such as "Tomorrow." Briggs Opera House, White River Junction, 7:30 p.m. $31.70. Info: 296-7000.

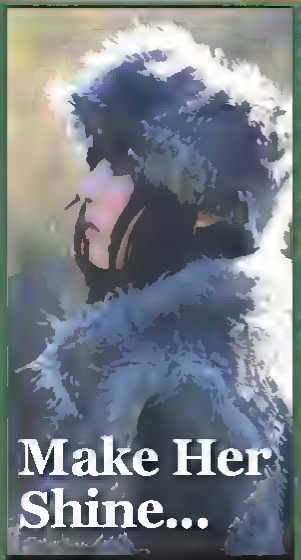
'AT HOME AT THE ZOO' Lisa Steele performs Ann Wuehler's short one-act *The Care and Feeding of Birds* before the Phoenix Theater Group takes the stage with Edward Albee's prequel to *The Zoo Story*. Off Center for the Dramatic Arts, Burlington, 7:30 p.m. $10-15. Info: 872-7111.

'IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE' See TUE.06. 7 p.m.

'THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LIVE IN HD' **PALACE 9** Richard Croft stars in a broadcast screening of Philip Glass's *Satyagraha*. Palace Cinema 9 South, Burlington, 6:30 p.m. $18-24. Info: 660-9300.

'WINTER TALES' Folk singers Patti Casey and Pete Sutherland join Vermont Stage Company actors in stories, songs and poems celebrating the cold season. FlynnSpace, Burlington, 7:30 p.m. $24.30-55. Info: 863-5966. ⑦

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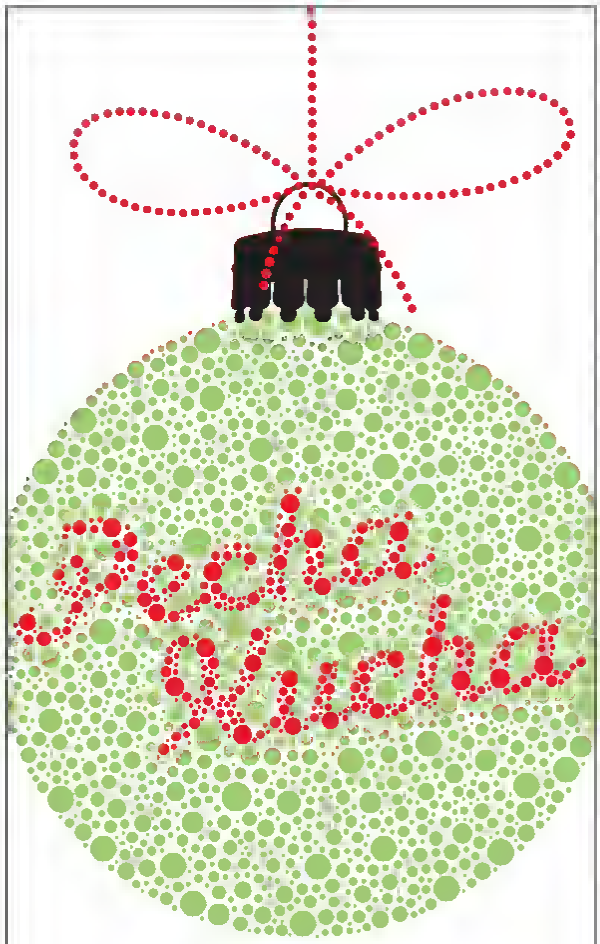
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VOLUME V

Thursday, December 1, at 6:00pm
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PechaKucha Night (PKN) is a worldwide phenomenon that began in 2003 in Tokyo. It offers the opportunity for a broad range of participants to present their designs, projects, thoughts, and ideas at a fun, informal, and fast-paced gathering. The December 1 edition of PechaKucha will be hosted by Mitch Wertheb of VPR's Morning Edition. Learn more about PKN at **www.pecha-kucha.org** or **www.flemingmuseum.org**

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classes

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acting

ACTING FUNDAMENTALS. Jan. 3–Feb. 7, 6:7:30 p.m. Weekly on Tue. Cost: $130/6-wk. class. Location: Spark Arts, 180 Flynn Ave., Burlington. Info: Spark Arts, Natalie Miller, 373-4703, natalie@sparkartsvt.com, sparkartsvt.com. Interested in trying acting, but not sure where to start? Get your feet wet in an accepting and safe environment. Over six weeks, you'll learn the basics of acting, including breathing, projection, posture, movement and script analysis through theater games and group scene work. Instructor: Natalie Miller.



dance

BALANCE, HARMONY, BALLET! Try free classes! Beginning level: Fri., Dec. 2, 11 a.m.–1 & Sat., Dec. 3, 12 p.m. Location: Burlington Dances, 1 Mill St., suite 372, Burlington. Info: 863-3369, lucille@naturalbodiespilates.com, NaturalBodiesPilates.com. Love ballet? Release unnecessary tension and connect with your inner dancer to shape, tone and align your body while experiencing elegance, personal growth and grace. Classes include teachings of the masters of movement, Pilates, Delsarte, Balanchine, Vagonova, Laban and Bartenieff, for balance and harmony in the mind, heart and body.

CHACE MILL HOLIDAY HOP! Fri., Dec. 2, 12–6 p.m. Sat., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Rediscover historic Chace Mill at the Winooski River Falls. Location: Burlington Dances, Chace Mill, top floor, 1 Mill St., suite 372, Burlington. Info: Burlington Dances, Lucille Dyer, 863-3369, Info@BurlingtonDances.com, BurlingtonDances.com. Meet and greet wellness practitioners and artists. Take free Pilates, belly dance, yoga, ballet, CardioBLAST and dance-movement therapy classes. See demonstrations and open dance rehearsals; visit art studios, shop and delight in how visual and movement arts enhance and enchant our lives. We are local. Find us on Facebook, too!

DANCE STUDIO SALSALINA. Location: 288 Pine St., Burlington. Info: Victoria, 598-1077, info@salsaline.com. Salsa classes: nightclub style, on-one and on-two; group and private; four levels. Beginner walk-in classes: Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m.: Argentinean Tango class and social; Fridays, 7:30 p.m.: walk-ins welcome. No dance experience, partner or preregistration required; just the desire to have fun! Drop in any time and prepare for an enjoyable workout!

LEARN TO SWING DANCE. Cost: $60/6-week series ($50 for students/seniors). Location: Champlain Club, 20 Crowley St., Burlington. Info: lindyvermont.com, 860-7501. Great fun, exercise and socializing with fabulous music. Learn in a welcoming and lighthearted environment. Classes start every six weeks: Tuesdays for beginners, Wednesdays for upper levels. Instructors: Shirley McAdam and Chris Nicki.

LEARN TO DANCE W/A PARTNER! Cost: $50/4-week class. Location: The Champlain Club, 20 Crowley St., Burlington, St. Albans, Colchester. Info: First Step Dance, 598-6757, kevin@firststepdance.com, FirstStepDance.com. Come alone, or come with friends, but come out and learn to dance! Beginning classes repeat each month, but intermediate classes vary from month to month. As with all of our programs, everyone is encouraged to attend, and no partner is necessary. Three locations to choose from!

drumming

TAIKO, DJEMBE, CONGAS & BATA! Location: Burlington Taiko Space, 208 Flynn Ave., Suite 3-G, Burlington. Contemporary Dance & Fitness Studio, 18 Langdon St., Montpelier. AllTogetherNow, 170 Cherry Tree Hill Rd., E. Montpelier. Info: Stuart Paton, 999-4255, spatonSS@gmail.com. Burlington: Beginners' Taiko starts Tuesday, November 8 and January 10; kids, 4:30 p.m., $60/6 weeks; adults, 5:30 p.m., $72/6 weeks. Advanced classes start Monday, November 7 and January 9, 5:30 and 7 p.m. Women's Haitian classes start Friday, November 11 and December 9, 5 p.m., $45/3 weeks. Morning Taiko workout/polish starts Saturday, November 12 and December 3, 9:10:45 a.m., $45/3 weeks. Beginning Cuban Bata starts Sunday, November 20, 1:30–3 p.m., $45/3 weeks. Montpelier: Thursdays! Haitian starts November 10 and December 8, 1:30–2:30 p.m., $45/3 weeks. East Montpelier: Thursdays! Djembe starts November 10, 5:30 p.m., $45/3 weeks. Cuban congas start December 8, $45/3 weeks. Taiko starts November 10 & December 8, 7 p.m., $45/3 weeks.

exercise

CHACE MILL HOLIDAY HOP! Fri., Dec. 2, 12–6 p.m. Sat., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Rediscover historic Chace Mill at the Winooski River Falls. Location: Burlington Dances Studio, upstairs in the Chace Mill, 1 Mill St., suite 372, Burlington. Info: Burlington Dances, Lucille Dyer, 863-3369, Lucille@NaturalBodiesPilates.com, BurlingtonDances.com. Meet and greet wellness practitioners and artists. Take free Pilates, belly dance, yoga, ballet, CardioBLAST and dance therapy classes. See demonstrations and open dance rehearsals; visit art studios, shop and delight in how visual and movement arts enhance and enchant our lives. We are local. Like us on Facebook, too!

flynnarts



Register online at flynnarts.org. Call 652-4537 or email flynnarts@flynncenter.org for more info.

WINTER CLASSES ENROLLING NOW! Location: Flynn Center, Burlington. Acting, singing, dance, standup comedy, jazz music, parent/child music making and more! Children, teens and adults all welcome; scholarships available as needed. Now, choirs will be filling open spaces in January for grades 4–6 and 7–12 and adults. Jazz music combos will be holding placement sessions for grades 5–12 and adults on January 10. Dance exhibition "Open Marley Nights" is accepting applications for dancers who want to share works-in-progress. Visit website for full listings and to register.

gardening

MASTER GARDENER 2011 COURSE. Feb. 7–May 1, 8:15–9 p.m. Weekly on Tue. Cost: $385/incl. Sustainable Gardening book. Late fee after Jan. 20. Noncredit course. Location: Various locations, Bennington, Brattleboro, Johnson, Lyndon, Montpelier, Middlebury, Newport, Randolph Ctr., Rutland, Springfield, St. Albans, Waterbury, White River Jct. Info: 656-9562, master.gardener@uvm.edu, uvm.edu/mastergardener. Learn the keys to a healthy and sustainable home landscape as University of Vermont faculty and experts focus on gardening in Vermont. This noncredit course covers a wide variety of horticultural topics: fruit and vegetable production, flower gardening, botany basics, plant pests, soil fertility, disease management, healthy lawns, invasive plant control, introduction to home landscaping and more!

STONE WALL WORKSHOP. 1-day workshops run Jan. through Mar. 2012. Cost: $100/1-day workshop. Location: Red Wagen Plants, 2402 Shelburne Falls Rd., Hinesburg. Info: Queen City Soil & Stone, Charley MacMartin, 318-2411, mac.martin@qcss.org, queencitysoilandstone.com. Our introductory workshops for homeowners and tradespeople promote the beauty and integrity of stone. The one-day workshop focuses on the basic techniques for creating dry laid stone walls. Workshops are held in warm greenhouses in Hinesburg. The workshops are hands on, working with stone native to Vermont.

WORKING WITH SEASONAL GREENS: HOW TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL WREATHS, SWAGS & MORE. Dec. 1, 12–12:45 p.m. Location: Gardener's Supply Garden Center, 472 Marshall Ave., Williston. Info: 658-2433, seminars@gardeners.com, gardenerssupplystore.com. Free to attend. No preregistration required.

herbs

LIPS, SCENTS & BODY BUTTERS. Dec. 6, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Cost: $20/2-hr. workshop. Location: Purple Shutter Herbs, 7W. Canal St., Winooski. Info: Purple Shutter Herbs, Purple Shutter Herbs, 865-4372, info@purpleshutter.com, purpleshutter.com. Formulate your own roll-on perfume with pure essential oils, creating a heavenly scent. Keep your skin looking radiant and feeling healthy with your own blends of luxurious, moisturizing body butters (soft and hard), and don't forget those lips! You'll go home with your own goodies and gift-making ideas!

WISDOM OF THE HERBS SCHOOL. Open House, Sat., Dec. 3, 1–3 p.m., at Tulsi Tea Room, 34 Elm St., Montpelier. Winter Ecology Walks w/George will be announced on our Facebook page or join our email list or call us. Wisdom of the Herbs 2012: Apr. 21–22, May 19–20, Jun. 16–17, Jul. 14–15, Aug. 11–12, Sep. 8–9, Oct. 6–7 & Nov. 3–4, 2012. Wild Edibles Intensive 2012 Spring/Summer Term: May 27, Jun. 24 & Jul. 22, 2012 & Summer/Fall Term: Aug. 19, Sep. 16 & Oct. 14, 2012. VSAC nendegree grants avell te qualifying applicants. Location: Wisdom of the Herbs School, Woodbury. Info: 456-8122, annie@wisdomoftheherbsschool.com, wisdomoftheherbsschool.com. Earth skills for changing times. Exponential programs embracing local wild edible and medicinal plants, food as first medicine, sustainable living skills, and the inner journey. Annie McCleary, director, and George Lisi, naturalist.

martial arts

AIKIDO: Join now & receive a 3 mo. membership for $190. Special rate incl. free uniform ($50 value) & unlimited classes 7 days/wk. Location: Aikido of Champlain Valley, 257 Pine St. (across from Conant Metal & Light), Burlington. Info: 951-8900, burlingtonaikido.org. Aikido is a dynamic Japanese martial art that promotes physical and mental harmony through the use of breathing exercises, aerobic conditioning, circular movements, and pinning and throwing techniques. We also teach sword/staff arts and knife defense. The Samurai Youth Program provides scholarships for children and teenagers, ages 7–17. We also offer classes for children ages 5–6. Classes are taught by Benjamin Pincus-Sensei, Vermont's only fully certified (Shidoin) Aikido teacher.

AIKIDO. Location: Vermont Aikido, 274 N. Winooski Ave. (2nd floor), Burlington. Info: Vermont Aikido, 862-9785, vermontaikido.org. Aikido for Children (ages 6–12) at Vermont Aikido. Class starts October 29. Saturday mornings, 9:30–10:30. $50 monthly fee includes uniform you get to take home. Aikido trains body and spirit together promoting physical flexibility with flowing movement, martial awareness with compassionate connection, respect for others and confidence in oneself.

MARTIAL WAY SELF-DEFENSE CENTER: Please visit website for schedule. Location: Martial Way Self Defense Center, 3 locations, Colchester.

MARTIAL ARTS » P.68

Together, Better Choices
like our 14th annual COTS tree sale



Purchase a fresh balsam grown in Craftsbury, VT, support local growers and also help neighbors in need this holiday season. Proceeds go to the Committee on Temporary Shelter, local advocates for long-term solutions to end homelessness.

Starting December 7, trees are on sale from 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. City Market staff will be on hand for tree tying assistance.

Trees are just $30 (all sizes). Buy a COTS tree and you'll take get a voucher for 50% off a lift ticket to Sugarbush!

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classes

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MARTIAL ARTS « P.67

Milton St. Albans Info 893-8693, martialwayvt.com. Beginners will find a comfortable and welcoming environment, and a courteous staff that is dedicated to helping each member achieve his or her maximum potential in the martial arts. Experienced martial artists will be impressed by our instructors' knowledge and humility, our realistic approach, and our straightforward, fair tuition and billing policies.

VERMONT BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU. Mon.–Fri., 5–9 p.m., & Sat., 10 a.m. 1st class is free. Location: Vermont Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, 55 Leroy Rd., Williston. Info: 660-4072, Julio@bjjusa.com, vermontbjj.com. Classes for men, women and children. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu enhances strength, flexibility, balance, coordination and cardio-respiratory fitness. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu training builds and helps to instill courage and self-confidence. We offer a legitimate Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu martial arts program in a friendly, safe and positive environment. Accept no imitations. Learn from one of the world's best, Julio "Foca" Fernandez. CBJJ and IBJJF certified 6th Degree Black Belt, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu instructor under Carlson Gracie Sr., teaching in Vermont, born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil! A 5-time Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu National Featherweight Champion and 3-time Rio de Janeiro State Champion, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

VING TSUN KUNG FU. Mon. & Wed., 5:30–7:30. Cost: $80/mo. Location: Rebert Miller Center, 130 Gosse Ct., Burlington. Info: MOY TUNG KUNG FU, Nick 318-3383, KUNGFU.VT@GMAIL.COM, MOYTUNGVT.COM. Traditional Moy Yat Ving Tsun Kung Fu. Learn a highly effective combination of relaxation, center line control and economy of motion. Take physical strength out of the equation with the time-tested Ving Tsun system. simple principles work with any body type. Free introductory class.

meditation

LEARN TO MEDITATE. Meditation instruction available Sunday mornings 9 a.m.–12 p.m. or by appointment. The Shambhala Cafe meets the first Saturday of each month for meditation and discussions, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. An Open House occurs every third Friday evening of each month, 7–9 p.m., which includes an intro to the center, a short dharma talk and socializing. Location: Burlington Shambhala Center, 187 So. Winooski Ave., Burlington. Info: 658-5795, burlington-shambhala.ctr.org. Through the practice of sitting still and following your breath as it goes out and dissolves, you are connecting with your heart. By simply letting yourself be as you are, you develop genuine sympathy toward yourself. The Burlington Shambhala Center offers meditation as a path to discovering gentleness and wisdom.

photography

DIGITAL CAMERAS REVEALED. Dec. 2, 7–9 p.m. Cost: $10/2-hour class. Location: First Baptist Church of Montpelier, 3 St. Paul St., Montpelier. Info: Wings Photography, Bryan Pfeiffer, 454-4640, bryan@wingsphetography.com, wingsphotography.com. Give me two hours and I'll give you photography enlightenment (in time for the holidays). You'll finally understand the dials and buttons on your point-and-shoot camera. You'll get refreshments, a handout and wisdom for capturing your world. No need to register. Bring your camera!

pilates

ALL WELLNESS. Location: 128 Lakeside Ave., suite 103, Burlington. Info: 863-9900, allwellnessvt.com. We encourage all ages, all bodies and all abilities to discover greater ease and enjoyment in life by integrating physical therapy, Pilates Reformer, Power Pilates mat classes, Vinyasa and Katonah Yoga, and Indoor cycling. Come experience our welcoming atmosphere, skillful instructors and beautiful, light-filled studio—your first fitness class is free if you mention this ad!

EVERYBODY LOVES PILATES!. Free mat classes at the Chace Mill Holiday Hop Fri., Dec. 2, 9:30 a.m. & Sat., Dec. 3, 2 p.m. Location: Natural Bodies Pilates, 1 Mill St., suite 372, Burlington. Info: 863-3369, lucille@naturalbodiespilates.com, NaturalBodiesPilates.com. Feel the feeling! See the difference! You've heard of the Seal, Teaser, Corkscrew, Swan and Mermaid! Try a free class and find out why every body loves Pilates! Relieve stress, promote whole-body health, restore awareness and enjoy overall well being. Share your good fortune, bring your friends. We are local!

reiki

ANIMAL REIKI I CLASS. Jan. 7 & 10, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Cost: $190/12-hr. class. Location: Butterwerks Farm, Westfield. Info: HeartSong Reiki, Kelly McDermett-Burns, 746-6834, kelly@heartsongreiki.com, heartsongreiki.com. This is the foundation for self care and animal work. History, precepts, the Japanese energy system, meditations and animal protocol covered. Four attunements. Practice time with animals. Students will gain basic knowledge for working on any animal. Manual and certificate included. Percentage of class fee donated to Shelter Animal Reiki Association.

shamanism

INTRO TO SHAMANIC JOURNEYING. Dec. 4, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Cost: $75/5-hr. class. Location: Shaman's Flame, 78A Cady Hill Rd., Stowe. Info: Sarah Finlay & Peter Clark, 253-7846, peterclark13@gmail.com, shamansflame.com. Experiential workshop

includes shamanic cosmology, shamanic journeying. Meet spirit guides, find your seat of power and begin to walk the path of self-empowerment. Learn about divination and basic forms of shamanic healing. Discover the great relevance of this ancient spiritual practice. Expand your consciousness. Learn of integrative spiritual healing.

tai chi

SNAKE-STYLE TAI CHI CHUAN | Beginner classes Sat. mornings & Wed. evenings. Call to view a class. Location: Bao Tak Fai Tai Chi Institute, 100 Church St., Burlington. Info: 864-7902, ipttaichi.org. The Yang Snake Style is a dynamic tai chi method that mobilizes the spine while stretching and strengthening the core body muscles. Practicing this ancient martial art increases strength, flexibility, vitality, peace of mind and martial skill.

YANG-STYLE TAI CHI | Beginner's class, Wed., 5:30. All levels class on Sat., 8:30 a.m. Cost: $16/class. Location: Vermont Tai Chi Academy & Healing Center, 180 Flynn Ave., Burlington. Turn right into driveway immediately after the railroad tracks. Located in the old Magic Hat Brewery building. Info: 318-6238. Tai Chi is a slow-moving martial art that combines deep breathing and graceful movements to produce the valuable effects of relaxation, improved concentration, improved balance, a decrease in blood pressure and ease in the symptoms of fibromyalgia. Janet Makaris, Instructor.

vermont center for yoga and therapy



YOGA FOR WINTER BLUES | Dec. 15–Jan. 26, 6:30–7:45 p.m., Weekly on Thu. Cost: $95/series. Location: Vermont Center for Yoga and Therapy, 364 Dorset St., suite 204, S. Burlington. Info: Deb Sherrer, 999-2703, vtcyt.com. Our bodies' biorhythms are affected as the cold intensifies. Come explore the "skillful means" of using yoga and breath to work directly with shifting rhythms and varying energy states and to ultimately awaken the light and life force within. No experience necessary.

RESTORATIVE YOGA & REIKI: REST & RECHARGE, SLOW TO THE WORLD W/ MARY BETH CACCIOLA & MARTHA WHITNEY | Dec. 8, 6–8 p.m. Cost: $30/class. Location: Vermont Center for Yoga and Therapy, 364 Dorset St., suite 204, S. Burlington. Info: 658-9440, vtcyt.com. When life speeds up we often forget the importance of rest, that which gives us quiet time, space, nourishment and rejuvenation. Expanence the practices of Restorative Yoga and Reiki. Martha will guide a Restorative Yoga practice while Mary Beth will offer Reiki, a subtle and effective form of energy healing.

yoga

EVOLUTION YOGA | $14/class, $130/class card, $5–$10 community classes. Location: Evolution Yoga Burlington. Info: 864-9642, yoga@evolutionvt.com, evolutionvt.com. Evolution's certified teachers are skilled with students ranging from beginner to advanced. We offer classes in Vinyasa, Anusara inspired, Kripalu and Iyengar yoga. Babies/kids classes also available! Prepare for birth and strengthen postpartum with pre-/postnatal yoga, and check out our thriving massage practice. Participate in our community blog, evolutionvt.com/evoblog.

HAPPY HIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS | Dec. 11–18, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Weekly on Sun. Cost: $45/both in advance, $25/single session or 2 punches on your class card. Location: studioM Yoga, 179 Main St. (above Linda's Apparel), Vergennes. Info: studioMyoga.com, 399-0083, mlajoice@studiomyoga.com, studioMyoga.com. With Missa Lindberg. Gentle mix of flowing asanas and longer held yin postures to open the hips and relieve tension. Register for the series or single class by December 10 in studio or by phone or email. For more information and to view full class schedule, please visit our website.

LAUGHING RIVER YOGA: | $13 class, $110/10 classes, $130 monthly unlimited. Mon.–Fri., 9 am classes, sliding scale $5–$15. Location: Laughing River Yoga, Chace Mill, suite 126, Burlington. Info: 343-2119, laughingriveryoga.com. Yoga changes the world through transforming individual lives. Transform yours with classes, workshops and retreats taught by experienced and compassionate instructors. We offer Kripalu, Jivamukti, Vinyasa, Yoga Trance Dance, Yin, Restorative, Meditation and more. All bodies and abilities welcome. Check out our Costa Rica yoga retreat March 11 through 17.

RESTORATIVE YOGA | Dec. 4, 4–5:30 p.m. Cost: $15/class. Location: Burlington Dances, Chace Mill, Top Floor, 1 Mill St., suite 372, Burlington. Info: Burlington Dances, Lucille Dyer, 863-3369, Lucille@NaturalBodiesPilates.com, BurlingtonDances.com. Enjoy the warm atmosphere and early evening light in this warm and resonant studio upstairs in the Chace Mill. Julie Peoples-Clark leads students to a meditative state with the long tradition of restorative yoga for deep relaxation. Be present in the moment with awareness, transform yourself and sleep well.

YOGA FOR RUNNERS | Tue., 6:15–7:15 p.m., Wed., 6:15–7:15 p.m., Sat., 9:15–10:15 a.m. Cost: $10/1-hr. class. Location: Green Mountain Rehab, 90 Main St., Burlington. Info: Susan Foerster, 861-6700, susan@greenmtrehab.com, greenmtrehab.com. As a runner you don't have to be flexible to benefit from yoga. Come begin your cross training journey to improve your strength and minimize or heal from injuries. Classes are designed to cultivate mobility, stability, alignment and strength in the ligaments, tendons and muscles used in training or often overused.

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Brothers in Arms

Montréal's Brad and Andrew Barr evolve on a new project

BY MATT BUSHLOW



Barr Brothers

When Brad Barr first answers his cellphone he sounds upbeat. But after answering a few questions, he pauses and admits that he's exhausted. After all, his band, the Barr Brothers, which features Barr on guitars and vocals, his brother Andrew Barr on percussion, Sarah Page on harp, and Andrés Vial on bass and pump organ, have just arrived home in Montreal after five weeks touring the United States and Canada. Back in town for less than 24 hours, the band has already recorded a TV appearance and is getting ready for a performance at a downtown club. For now, Barr is enjoying a few minutes on a couch.

The band's busy schedule is due, in part, to the recent release of their debut album, *The Barr Brothers*, on Montréal's Secret City Records. While the label support is a big step for the band, they originally self-released the album in early 2010 to sell while on tour with their friends and fellow folk-rockers the Low Anthem. Since then, the Barr Brothers have been on the road building an audience across the U.S. and Canada. The band has garnered praise from fans and press alike, including a recent shout-out in the *New York Times* for lacing "folky songs with touches of West and North Africa, including Moroccan metal castanets."

Both live and on record, the band can shift gears easily from quiet harp-and-pump-organ folk into polyrhythmic blues-rock or gamelan-influenced grooves before softly settling into a romantic ballad. The quieter, more personal side of these songs — and the band's unusual instrumentation — is a big change from the music on which Brad and Andrew Barr cut their teeth in the late 1990s. Over the past 15 years, they've been known best for melting faces in clubs and at festivals as part of hard-rocking jam bands the Slip and Surprise Me Mr. Davis.

Brad Barr recently spoke with *Seven Days* about touring, writing for different bands and the influence of the Low Anthem on the Barr Brothers' sound.

SEVEN DAYS. You've been touring quite a bit and even had a nice mention recently in the *New York Times*. How does it feel to have that kind of attention?

BRAD BARR: It's kinda bizarre. Only that it's a much different angle than I've been used to. With the Slip it was like, start in Boston, then you go to Burlington and Providence and New York, and then you go a little further, maybe Philly and then Northampton, and start slowly spreading that way, as word of mouth travels. And the jam community there was very much kind of a cult thing, so it spread, and it was really about the people, the audience, and the music lovers on the ground.

[The Barr Brothers] have been starting here in Montréal, but doing interviews that end up on Vancouver radio, and interviews for newspaper articles in Alabama and California. People are absorbing it from all these different sources, including blogs. A lot of people I meet out there, I ask, "How did you end up at the show?" And they say blogs. So this is just a different approach.

SD: And the music you're making is very different from the Slip or Surprise Me Mr. Davis. There are similarities, but you've managed to create a project that's apart from your other bands.

BB: Yeah. Some people who have never heard the Slip ask me, "Is it anything like this band?" And I don't know what to say. Uh, same guitarist, same drummer, same songwriter, same singer. It's not just having harp and pump organ in the band that changes it, although on a surface level it does appear to be drastically different. It's not so much that I set out to do anything completely different from the Slip or Davis, but I think it just happened [as] a certain evolution. I would call it an evolution in my songwriting. For me, I saw it as an evolution and a step up in my conviction in the songs, and the rest is just happenstance, really, and using the most of the elements that were right there in front of us — being Sarah and Andrés — and just working with different colors and different textures.

SD: You and Andrew were friends with and toured with the Low Anthem before starting this band. Considering the instrumentation of the Barr Brothers, do you feel like you were influenced at all by them?

BB: Oh, most definitely. Group vocals, the way they sing together, the consideration they give to their harmonies, their harmony arrangements. And the pump [organ], I've always loved that instrument. I saw Neil Young play a pump organ in Boston in, like, 1992, just a solo show, and it was transcendental to me. I've always wanted to use that instrument. I'd seen Andrés play around, and I knew he played piano. What I didn't know before we talked to him about the band is that he also has a really big collection of pump organs.

SD: No kidding.

BB: Yeah, he has, like, five of them, all ranging in different sizes. But I certainly spent many nights feeling the majestic vibe of the Low Anthem, and the pump organ is a big part of that, so I'm certain that a lot of that rubbed off on me and inspired me.

SD: Is there anything you've been able to express with the Barr Brothers that maybe you weren't able to in the context of the Slip or Surprise Me Mr. Davis?

BB: Well, it's pretty much exactly how you hear it and exactly how you imagine it, too. For example, Davis is, for me, a rowdy night out on the town with the boys.

SD: (Laughs) And it sounds like that. Great description.

BB: And the Barr Brothers... Sarah on the harp, she's such a graceful person and graceful performer, it puts me in a place of a little more glowing. For me what it all boils down to is the personalities involved in the different projects and what they inspire in me. And so, if I write a song, a lot of times I know, *Well, this one's going right to Davis*. It's just that personality I want to play this with those guys. Or I write something and I know, *This is a Barr Brothers tune*. Somewhere in there is where it comes to life.

The Barr Brothers play the Higher Ground Showcase Lounge on Wednesday, November 30, at 7:30 p.m. $10/$12 AA. The Low Anthem's Jocie Adams opens.

SOUNDbites

BY DAN BOLLES

Dear John

A couple of weeks ago, I received a Facebook message from a man named Bryan Hunt. To my knowledge, I have never met Bryan. But it's not unusual for me to get friend requests and FB messages from total strangers. Musicians and other interested parties frequently contact me that way. Comes with the turf in our brave new e-world, I guess.

Bryan was reaching out to tell me about a friend and collaborator, **JOHN MARTENIS**, who had recently recorded a solo album. "It's one of the deepest, most beautiful, haunting pieces of music you've ever heard," he raved. I get a lot of that kind of stuff, too. Any record is amazing when you're the guy tasked with promoting it. But I've learned to take hyperbole with a grain of salt. In this gig, you have to, or you'll end up regularly disappointed when the supposed "next **BOB DYLAN**" isn't even the next **JAKOB DYLAN**. But I digress.

The difference with Bryan is that he wasn't writing from some slick marketing firm or record company. He has no real stake in the success of John Martenis. That's because John Martenis died on Saturday, September 3, exactly two weeks after recording the record in question, *Alone and Acoustic*. He was 45.

According to the obituary that ran in the *Burlington Free Press* on September 13, Martenis died "unexpectedly" at his home in Ferrisburgh — I'll let you decode the obit verbiage there. He left behind a wife and two young children. And a record.

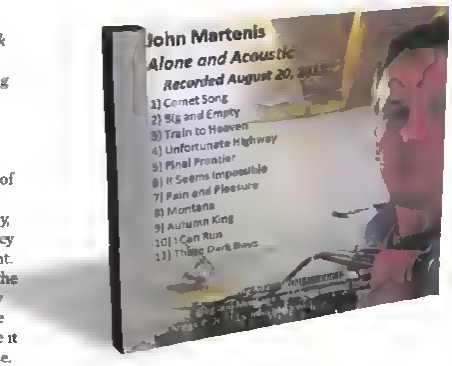
We have a tendency to mythologize artists when they pass too soon. Would we view the music of **NICK DRAKE** or **ELLIOTT SMITH** differently had they not died young? At least a little, I think. *Pink Moon* or *Figure 8* would certainly still be astonishing albums if either man were alive. But there is a certain elegiac quality to those records now, isn't there?

The same could be said of **JEFF BUCKLEY**'s *Grace*, which simply sounds otherworldly, and not just because Buckley was indeed an angelic talent. His premature death, and the fact that *Grace* was his only completed album, gives the record an air of importance it may not have had otherwise. That's not to take anything away from any of those albums. But we view them differently now. We just do.

What, then, to make of Martenis' final work? Is it as astounding as Bryan Hunt claims? Not quite, in all honesty. But it is very, very good. So much so that it's hard not be angry that these 12 songs, all but two of which were first takes, are all we get from John Martenis. You can't help but feel cheated.

Martenis had a unique songwriting style, a curious blend of blunt prose and off-kilter metaphors that, on repeated listens, often reveal themselves to be truly clever. In moments — such as "Big and Empty" — he is solemnly reflective. In others — "Comet Song" — he is playful and light.

The sense of deep brooding here is pervasive, and common to many good, introspective songwriters. And, to be sure, knowing that these were the final musings of a troubled soul is undeniably chilling. Martenis' song titles seem to suggest he knew what was coming: "Train to Heaven," "Final Frontier," "These Dark Days." But even his bleakest confessional observations — delivered in a gripping, uneasy croon — can be tempered by a sly wit. He strikes a fine balance.



Taken in a vacuum, *Alone and Acoustic* is a strong record from start to finish. It features a mature artist with a sophisticated grasp on his craft. But we don't view art in a vacuum. Since art is essentially a reflection of ourselves and our surroundings, it really can't be created in one. As such, *Alone and Acoustic* is an unusually affecting album, and one local audiences should take the opportunity to hear, because there will never be another new John Martenis song.

Thank you, John. May you rest in peace.

BiteTorrent

In lighter news, Christmas time's a-coming! This week, the holiday season gets into full swing at the Big Picture Theater & Cafe in Waitsfield with a theatrical mashup by Buck Hill Productions called "Every Christmas Story Ever Told." And they mean it. The show is a three-man production that mashes up carols and classic yuletide tales from Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* to "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and pretty much everything in between. It's billed as a riotously funny send-up of holiday traditions that the *Los Angeles Times* calls a "knee-slapping hoot." So there's that. Check it out this Saturday, December 3.

Speaking of oddball theater stuff, **TOM BANJO** has a new show debuting this weekend at Radio Bean entitled "Snow White: An Adult Puppet Show of Our Time." I'm honestly afraid to say any more about the Cranky Show auteur's new project with Phinn Sonin and Erin Mackel, because when I see the phrase "adult puppet show," I can't help but think of the deleted scenes from *Team America: World Police*. If you've seen them, you know what I mean ... ahem. Anyway, there are two opportunities to catch the show this weekend. Friday,

SOUNDBITES » P.73

Follow @DanBolles on Twitter for more music news. Dan blogs on Solid State at sevendaysvt.com/blogs.

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PLANET OF THE ABTS
FEAT. MATT ABTS & JORGEN CARLSSON OF GOV'T MULE
TUE. 12/6 | $10 ADV / $12 DOS | DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8PM
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FRI. 12/9 | $10 ADV / $12 DOS | DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8PM
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LEVI LOWREY
FRI. 12/9 | $18 ADV / $20 DOS | DOORS 6, SHOW 6:30PM
MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS
CHAMPAGNE CHAMPAGNE, XPERIENCE
MON. 12/12 | $40 ADV / $45 DOS | DOORS 5, SHOW 6:30PM
WU-TANG CLAN
TUE. 12/13 | $18 ADV / $20 DOS | DOORS 6:30, SHOW 7PM
VANNA
WITHIN THE RUINS, LONGSHOT
THU. 12/22 | $40 ADV / $50 DOS | DOORS 7, SHOW 8:00PM
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MATISYAHU
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FRI. 12/30 | $10 ADV / $12 DOS | DOORS 8:30, SHOW 9PM
FOUR YEAR STRONG
SET YOUR GOALS, THANET, DIAMOND
SAT. 12/31 | $18 ADV / $20 DOS | DOORS 8, SHOW 8:30PM
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SAT. 12/31 | $25 ADV / $27 DOS | DOORS 8, SHOW 8:30PM
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WED.30

burlington area

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CLUB METRONOME Mushpost presents Tropical Bass 2 (EDM) 9 p.m. NA.

FRANNY O'S Karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Free.

HIGHER GROUND SHOWCASE LOUNGE The Barr Brothers, Jocie Adams (indie folk) 7:30 p.m. $10/12 AA

LEUNIG'S BISTRO & CAFÉ Cody Sargent Trio (jazz) 7 p.m. Free.

MANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB Open Mic with Andy Lugo 10 p.m. Free.

MONKEY HOUSE AM Presents Advance Base, Hello Shark (indie folk) 9 p.m. $8 18+

NECTAR'S Flat Nose Diesel Bus, Jeremy Hanzle (jam) 9 p.m. Free/$5. 18+

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Paydirt (acoustic rock) 7 p.m. Free

RADIO BEAN Ben Gross (singer-songwriter) 6 p.m., Free Ensemble V (jazz) 7:30 p.m. Free Irish Sessions, 9 p.m. Free

RED SQUARE Emma Frank (hip-hop), 7 p.m., Free. DJ Creli (hip-hop) 11 p.m., Free.

THE SKINNY PANCAKE Paul Cataldo (singer-songwriter) 6 p.m. $5-10 donation

central

BAGITOS Acoustic Blues Jam 6 p.m., Free.

champlain valley

CITY LIMITS Karaoke with Let It Rock Entertainment 9 p.m. Free.

ON THE RISE BAKERY Open Irish Session, 8 p.m. Free.

northern

BEE'S KNEES Last October (folk) 7:30 p.m. Donations

THE NUB PIZZERIA & PUB Seth Yacovone (solo acoustic blues) 7 p.m. Free.

MOOG'S Carl Stanton (acoustic) 8:30 p.m., Free.

regional

MONOPOLE Open Mic 8 p.m. Free

THU.01

burlington area

1/2 LOUNGE Live Music 7 p.m. Free. Harder They Come with DJs Darcie and Chris Pattison (dubstep) 10 p.m., Free

FRANNY O'S Karaoke, 9 p.m. Free.

HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM City and Colour, Hacienda (rock) 7:30 p.m., $23/25 AA.

HIGHER GROUND SHOWCASE LOUNGE Comedy Battle Open Mic (standup) 7:30 p.m. Free.

LEUNIG'S BISTRO & CAFÉ Ellen Powell & Friends (jazz) 7 p.m. Free.

LIFT DJ Josh Bugbee (hip-hop) 10 p.m. Free.

MONKEY HOUSE Zach duPont, the Hoof and the Heel (indie folk) 9 p.m., $5.

MUDDY WATERS Masefield Perkins & Bolles (acoustic) 8:30 p.m. Free.



COURTESY OF BEN TAYLOR

TUE.06 // BEN TAYLOR |FOLK|

Taylor Made

Let's just get this out of the way: **BEN TAYLOR** is the son of Carly Simon and James Taylor. But don't let the folk-royalty bloodlines color your preconceptions of his music. Dude plays some of the rippingest heavy metal around ... OK, that's a lie. He, too, is a folk songwriter. And, yes, there is a striking family resemblance to dear ol' dad in the younger Taylor's tender croon and lyrical sensitivity. But he is very much his own man, delivering heartfelt, thoughtful pop-folk songs wrapped in light, acoustic guitar lines and easy hooks. Jeez, maybe the apple really doesn't fall far from the tree? Ben Taylor plays Nectar's this Tuesday, December 6, with **DUKES COUNTY LOVE AFFAIR** and **PHIL DAROSA**.

NECTAR'S Trivia Mania with Top Hat Entertainment, 7 p.m. Free. Dwight & Nicole, Jesse Dee (soul, blues) 10 p.m. $7/10 18+

O'BRIEN'S IRISH PUB DJ Dominic (hip-hop) 9:30 p.m. Free

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Nobby Reed Project (blues) 7 p.m., Free

RADIO BEAN Jazz Sessions 6 p.m., Free. Shane Hardiman Trio (jazz) 8 p.m. Free. The Unbearable Light Cabaret (eclectic) 10 p.m. $3. Kat Wright & the Indomitable Soul Band (soul) 11 p.m. $3.

RASPUTIN'S 101 Thursdays with Pres & DJ Dan (hip-hop), 10 p.m. Free/$5 18+

RED SQUARE DJ Dakota (hip-hop) 8 p.m. Free. A-Dog Presents (hip-hop) 10 p.m. Free.

RED SQUARE BLUE ROOM DJ Creli (house) 9 p.m. Free.

THE SKINNY PANCAKE Phineas Gage (bluegrass) 8 p.m. $5-10 donation.

VENUE Karaoke with Steve LeClair 7 p.m. Free

central

BAGITOS Rebecca Singer (singer-songwriter) 6 p.m. Free

GREEN MOUNTAIN TAVERN Thirsty Thursday Karaoke, 9 p.m., Free

NUTTY'S TEPIN'S Z Jaz Masquerade Party (jazz) 7 p.m. Free.

SLIDE BROOK LODGE & TAVERN Open Mic, 7 p.m. Free

TUPELO MUSIC HALL Planet of the Abts featuring Matt Abts & Jurgen Carlson of Gov't Mule (rock), 8 p.m. $25 AA.

champlain valley

51 MAIN Verbal Onslaught (poetry) 9 p.m. Free.

ON THE RISE BAKERY ITR @ OTR with Derrick Burkins (singer-songwriters) 8 p.m. Donations.

TWO BROTHERS TAVERN DJ Jam Man (Top 40) 10 p.m., Free.

northern

BEE'S KNEES Up the Chain (acoustic) 7:30 p.m. Donations.

MOOG'S Paul Lataldo (singer-songwriter) 8:30 p.m. Free.

RIMROCKS MOUNTAIN TAVERN DJ Two Rivers (hip-hop) 10 p.m. Free.

RUSTY RAIL Hot Neon Magic ('80s New Wave), 9 p.m., Free.

regional

MONOPOLE Peacock Tunes & Trivia 5 p.m. Free. Bass Night, 10 p.m., Free.

MONOPOLE DOWNSTAIRS Gary Peacock (singer-songwriter) 10 p.m., Free

OLIVE BIDLEY'S Karaoke with Benjamin Bright and Ashley Kollar 6 p.m. Free

TABU CAFÉ & NIGHTCLUB Karaoke Night with Sassy Entertainment, 5 p.m. Free

THERAPY Threesome Thursdays with DJ Deuces (hip-hop) 10 p.m. Free. Therapy Thursdays with DJ NYCE (Top 40) 10:30 p.m. Free

SOUNDbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 71

December 2, and Saturday, December 3

Next week's issue will include a review of a new **UTAH PHILLIPS** tribute CD, *Long Gone*, curated by Phillips' son, **DUNCAN PHILLIPS**. The album release party is Wednesday, December 7, at Burlington's North End Studio and will feature Vermont folk icon **RIK PALIERI**, who knew the late Utah Phillips personally. I mention this now because the show falls on a Wednesday, and Wednesday shows are always awkward to write about, given *Seven Days*' publishing cycle. Since I have yet to successfully lobby to keep anything cool from happening on Wednesday nights, you get a double dose of Utah Phillips. So mark the show on your calendars now, and tune in next week for the album rundown.



COURTESY OF RIK PALIERI

Rik Palieri

Band Name of the Week: **MAXIMUM INFINITY**. Cheeky surf-punk act **TORPEDO RODEO** are one of my favorite local bands. Sadly, they just don't play out very often — something about making babies or some such nonsense. So I was tickled to receive an email from TR's **MAX KRAUSS** saying he had broken ground on a new side project. The band is called Maximum Infinity and basically consists of, well, Krauss' guitar effects pedal board. He says that his pedal board has grown so unwieldy, it no longer even requires a guitar player. To test his theory, Krauss ran the last pedal in the chain back through the first pedal to see what would happen, thus creating the "Infinity Loop." The results are really ... something. Krauss' experimental foray won't be for everyone — it's pretty harsh stuff. But if you're interested, you can find MI on Facebook.

Last but not least, from the Department of Corrections: Last week's cover story, "House on Fire," about the DJ collectives driving the increasingly vibrant local electronic dance music scene, contained a goof. In that story, I attributed the recent sold-out **SKRILLEX** show at Memorial Auditorium to promoters **ZK DEEP**. It wasn't. That one was all **HIGHER GROUND PRESENTS**. My apologies for the blunder. ⑦



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Every Christmas Story Ever Told

Listening In

Once again, this week's totally self-indulgent column segment, in which I share a random sampling of what was on my iPod, turntable, CD player, 8-track player, etc., this week.

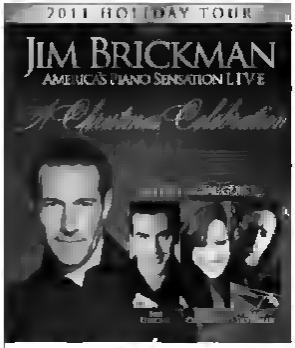
Doomtree,
No Kings

G-Side,
Island

Ty Segall,
Singles 2007-2010

Calexico,
Selections From Road Atlas 1998-2011

U.S. Girls,
U.S. Girls on KRAAK



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WED -11/30 - NECTAR'S
FLAT NOSE DIESEL BUS (JAM/ROCK)
W/ JEREMY HARPLE SOLO
CLUB METRONOME
TROPICAL BASS II (BASS MUSIC)
PRESENTED BY MUSHPOST

THU -12/1 - NECTAR'S
DWIGHT & NICOLE (BLUES/SOUL)
W/ JESSE DEE
CLUB METRONOME
BOUNCE LAB (TRANCE/ELECTRO)

FRI -12/2 - NECTAR'S
SOMETHING WITH STRINGS
(BLUEGRASS)
W/ TALLGRASS GETDOWN
CLUB METRONOME
NO DIGGITY 90'S NIGHT 9PM

SAT -12/3- NECTAR'S
GROUNDFOOD (HIP HOP/SOUL)
CLUB METRONOME
RETRONOME 80'S NIGHT 9PM

SUN -12/4 - NECTAR'S
MI YARD REGGAE NIGHT

MON -12/5 - NECTAR'S
METAL MONDAYS
FILTHY MINUTES OF FAME
• SWIFTSHIRE • SKROGG

TUE - 12/6 - NECTAR'S
BEN TAYLOR (FOLK/ACOUSTIC)
W/ D.C.L.A. & PHIL DAROSA
CLUB METRONOME
BASS CULTURE
DUB, DUBSTEP & DOWNTEMPO

WED -12/7 - BOTH FLOORS
2KDEEP & MUSHPOST PRESENT
CLUSTERF*CK (DRUM & BASS/DUBSTEP)

THU 12/8 - NECTAR'S
SISTER SPARROW & THE DIRTY BIRDS (SOUL/ROCK)

FRI -12/9 - NECTAR'S
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THU 01 « P72

FRI.02

burlington area

1/2 LOUNGE John Creech (singer songwriter), 7 p.m. Free. Craigland (house) 10 p.m. Free.

BACKSTAGE PUB Karaoke with Steve, 9 p.m. Free

BANANA WINDS CAFÉ & PUB Eli (acoustic) 7:30 p.m. Free

CLUB METRONOME No Diggity Return to the '90s ('90s dance party), 9 p.m., $5.

FRANNY O'S Pleasure Dome (rock) 9:30 p.m. Free.

HIGHER GROUND SHOWCASE LOUNGE First Friday with Antara, DJs Precious & Liu (singer songwriter house) 8 p.m. $5/10 18+

JP'S PUB Dave Harrisons Starstruck Karaoke, 10 p.m., Free.

LEVITY CAFÉ Friday Night Comedy (standup) 8 p.m. $5

LIFT Ladies Night, 9 p.m., Free/$3 DJ AJ (hip-hop) 10 p.m. Free

MARRIOTT HARBOR LOUNGE The Christopher Peterman Sextet (jazz), 8:30 p.m. Free.

MONKEY HOUSE MSR & AM Present Bobby Nat Baldwin Paper Castles (indie) 9 p.m. $10 18+

NECTAR'S Seth Yacovone (solo acoustic blues) 7 p.m. Free. Something With Strings Tallgrass Getdown (bluegrass) 9 p.m., $5.

ON TAP BAR & GRILL The Growlers (blues) 5 p.m., Free. Phil Asair Band (rock) 9 p.m. Free.

RADIO BEAN Matt Graham Quartet (jazz) 7 p.m. Free. John Harrington (singer songwriter), 8 p.m. Free. Laura Grill Band (rock) 9 p.m. Free. Tom Banjos "Snow White" (puppet show) 11 p.m. Free. Small Ax (rock) midnight, Free

RASPUTIN'S DJ ZJ (hip-hop) 10 p.m. $3

RED SQUARE Up the Chain (folk) 5 p.m. Free. Barika (world music) 9 p.m. $5. Bonjour HP presents Night/Vision Kickoff Party (house) 11 p.m. $5

RED SQUARE BLUE ROOM DJ Stavros (house) 10 p.m. $5

REGULAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION Mesa (country) 7 p.m. Free

RUBEN JAMES DJ Creft (hip-hop) 10:30 p.m. Free.

RÍ RÁ IRISH PUB Supersounds DJ (Top 40) 10 p.m., Free.

THE SKINNY PANCAKE Up the Chain (folk) 8 p.m., $5-10 donation.

central

BAGITOS Blue Fox (blues) 8 p.m. Free

CHARLIE O'S Red Hot Juba (cosmic Americana) 10 p.m., Free

GREEN MOUNTAIN TAVERN DJ Jonny P (Top 40) 9 p.m. $2

THE RESERVOIR RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM DJ Slim Pkrz All Request Dance Party (Top 40) 10 p.m. Free.

SLIDE BROOK LODGE & TAVERN DJ Madness (hip-hop), 9 p.m., Free

TUPELO MUSIC HALL Carbon Leaf, Aunt Martha (rock) 8 p.m., $30. AA.

champlain valley

51 MAIN Kareem Khalil and Damadeus Kafumbe (Afro-fusion) 5 p.m. Free. Jazz Jam (jazz) 7 p.m. Free. Yuki Takeda & Friends (jazz) 10 p.m. Free.

CITY LIMITS Top Hat Entertainment Dance Party (Top 40) 9 p.m. Free

TWO BROTHERS TAVERN The Inlaws (rock) 10 p.m. $3

northern

BEE'S KNEES Tammy Fletcher Mountain Girl (bluegrass), 7:30 p.m. Donations.

MOOG'S Leslie Grant & Stepstone (folk) 9 p.m. Free.

RIMROCKS MOUNTAIN TAVERN Friday Night Frequencies with DJ Rekkon (hip-hop) 10 p.m. Free

RUSTY NAIL Hot Neon Magic ('80s New Wave) 9 p.m. $5.

regional

MONOPOLE Albino Blacksheep (rock) 10 p.m. Free.

THERAPY Pulse with DJ Nyce (hip-hop) 10 p.m. $5.

SAT.03

burlington area

1/2 LOUNGE Live Music, 7 p.m., Free Space Echo with DJ Jahson & guests (house) 10 p.m. Free

BACKSTARE PUB Sturcrazie (rock) 9 p.m. Free.

BANANA WINDS CAFÉ & PUB Open Mic, 9 p.m. Free

CLUB METRONOME Retronome ('80s dance party) 10 p.m. $5.

FRANNY O'S Karaoke, 9 p.m. Free.

HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM Cornmeal, Hot Buttered Rum (bluegrass, Americana) 9 p.m., $10/12. AA.

JP'S PUB Dave Harrison's Starstruck Karaoke 10 p.m. Free.

LIFT DJ EFX (hip-hop) 10 p.m. Free

MARRIOTT HARBOR LOUNGE The Trio (acoustic) 8:30 p.m. Free.

MONKEY HOUSE Knight Howls, Cavebears, Son of Salami (experimental pop) 9 p.m., $5

NECTAR'S John Smyth (acoustic), 7 p.m. Free. Greundfood (hip-hop) 9 p.m., $5

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Conniption Fits (rock) 9 p.m. Free.

RADIO BEAN Less Digital More Manual Record Club 3 p.m. Free. Annalise Emerick (singer songwriter) 7 p.m., Free. Chelsea Berry (singer songwriter), 8:30 p.m. Free. Tom Banjo's "Snow White" (puppet show) 10 p.m. Free. Black Rabbit (rock) 11 p.m., Free. When Particles Collide (rock) 12:30 a.m. Free.

RASPUTIN'S Nastee (hip-hop), 10 p.m. Free

RED SQUARE DJ Raul (salsa) 5 p.m. Free. The Beerwarth Sisters (folk) 5 p.m., Free. Craig Mitchell & Motor City (soul) 8 p.m. $5. DJ A Dog (hip-hop), 11:30 p.m. $5

RÍ RÁ IRISH PUB The Complaints (rock) 10 p.m. Free.

THE SKINNY PANCAKE The Likeness (indie folk) 8 p.m. $5-10 donation. Karaoke 9 p.m. Free.

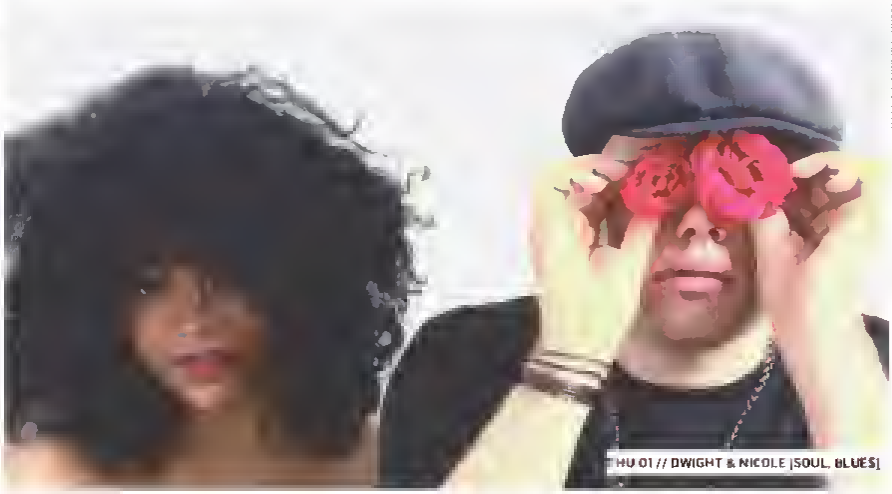
VENUE Tim Brick (country) 9 p.m., $5

central

BAGITOS Irish Session, 2 p.m., Free

SAT.03 » P76

Deep Roots New York City/Boston/sometimes Burlington-based duo **DWIGHT & NICOLE** blend a remarkable array of influences. Their 2010 record *ISigns*, garnered widespread acclaim for its cunning mix of blues, rock, country, jazz and soul. While they draw inspiration from myriad idioms, their sound remains unique. It's a clever amalgam of moving vocals, deft guitar work and poignant lyrical turns that offers as much for the mind as the soul. This Thursday, December 1, catch Dwight & Nicole at Nectar's with Boston-based soul revivalist **JESSE DEE.**



THU 01 // DWIGHT & NICOLE |SOUL, BLUES|

PHOTO BY JEREMY BARNUM

REVIEW *this*



The Hokum High Rollers, *Big Blessings Poppin'*

(SELF RELEASED CD)

If you spent much time in downtown Burlington this summer, it's likely you caught the Hokum High Rollers busking on the Church Street Marketplace at one point or another. The local string band was a welcome ragtag regular on our increasingly homogeneous and, well, pedestrian pedestrian mall. As spiritual steampunk kin to beloved suspender-fusion progenitors the Vermont Joy Parade, the vagabondish, old-time quartet helped reintroduce a raw, joyous artistic aesthetic to the Queen City's social hub. These High Rollers got style.

Their debut album, *Big Blessings Poppin'*, achieves a similarly humble feat, standing out as a defiantly rough-hewn musical treasure as jubilant and whimsical as it is well worn and frayed around the edges.

On *Blessings*, the High Rollers cruise right by "fo-fi" and hop off the sonic freight car at "no-fi." The album was recorded live, which lends an air of enthusiasm and vibrancy that attempts to do justice to the band's energetic live act. By and large, that's the exact effect. However, at times the album is crude to a fault.

The lead cut, "Travelin' Man," is one such example, sounding as though it was literally recorded in the aforementioned freight car ... while the train was moving. Fast. Peppy vocal turns from resophonic guitarist Jason Lawrence and tenor banjo and uke player Hannah Waltz are too often swallowed in cacophony. And though guitar and banjo are prominent in the mix, the general bedlam detracts from what appear to be fine performances.

Other cuts fare far better. "Please, Baby" is a loping gem. And though the vocals are still frustratingly set back in the mix, the song bears an irresistibly clumsy charm, embodied by Raychel Severance's bouncy bucket bass. "Furniture Man" showcases Lawrence's nimble licks and the propulsive scratch of Nathan Tinglof's washboard percussion. "My Gal Sal" is a jaunty little ditty, with Waltz delivering mad-cap vocals over a bustle of jumpy banjo and fluttering bells. The riotous "Shake It and Break It" features a grinning cameo on kazoo-a-phone from Uncle Davie Jenkins, who also engineered the album. And "I'll See You in My Dreams" is a yearning, breezily pretty hothouse number that evokes pure, wide-eyed innocence.

Big Blessings Poppin' might grate on the ears of overly particular audiophiles. But for the Hokum High Rollers, that seems to be at least partially the point. Flaws are often as important to character as are strengths. Clean isn't always better. And sometimes, you just gotta get down and play in the dirt. Few do that better than the Hokum High Rollers.

DAN BOLLES

Barika, *Remember*

(SELF RELEASED CD)

On their long-awaited full-length debut, *Remember*, local ensemble Barika finally capture their uniquely thrilling brand of Afro-funk-psych-indie-whatever-rock on record. The album is, in no uncertain terms, a dynamic tour de force. The brilliantly conceived and expertly executed brainchild of n'goni master Craig Myers is among the finest local albums you'll hear in this, or any other, year. Really.

Remember begins with a shimmering, n'goni line that imparts an ethereal calm. Beware. It's a setup. At the precise moment when Myers' nimble plucking renders the listener into a blissful lull, the title track explodes in a maelstrom of steamy funk. Exultant horns take flight over Caleb Bronz's insistent drums and JP Candelier's undulating bass. Andric Severance's twisting key swirls create an iridescent bed of shifting, opaque sound. Then, just at the height of tension, the band relents, leaving only Myers and his rippling, crystalline tones.

That sense of contrast, the ability to expand and contract, is central to Myers' compositional philosophy. Unpredictability is a running theme throughout *Remember*. "Baga" sets distinctly Americanized funk horn melodies in opposition to Myers' curious West African modal shifts before descending into a spacious, psychedelic bridge that ultimately unites the two. "Blues for Segu" rolls along murkily until the band fractures its heady groove with an expansive, polyrhythmic break and a fearsome solo from guest guitarist Bob Wagner. "Good Morning" breaks like dawn with a yawning midrange progression from Myers. Eventually it yields to a phalanx of dissonenting noise that jolts the listener to reluctant wakefulness.

As star studded an ensemble as Barika is, the guests on *Remember* are equally impressive. Keyboardist Tom Cleary makes a typically potent



and sonically arresting appearance on "River Niger." Saxophonist Brian McCarthy is also a welcome addition on that track, the following number and album closer "Grace." That last cut is the only one on the record with vocals, courtesy of Rubblebucket's Annakalmia Clark Traver, who also wrote the lyrics. As she so often does with her own band, Traver's distinctive delivery lends a singular depth and character. It's sparkling and adventuresomely close to a truly remarkable record.

This week, Barika play two local shows in support of *Remember*: Friday, December 2, at Red Square in Burlington and Saturday, December 3, at the Rusty Nail in Stowe.

DAN BOLLES

GET YOUR MUSIC REVIEWED: IF YOU'RE AN INDEPENDENT ARTIST OR BAND MAKING MUSIC IN VT, SEND YOUR CD TO US: DAN BOLLES C/O SEVEN DAYS, 255 SO. CHAMPLAIN ST. STE 5, BURLINGTON, VT 05401

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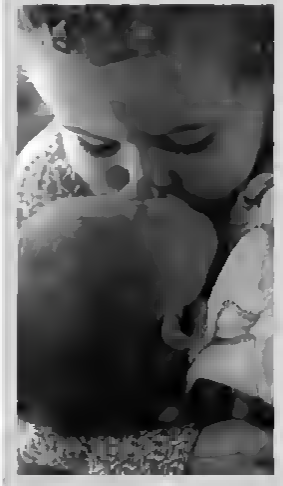
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SAT 03 « P 74

Eric Friedman (singer-songwriter) 6 p.m. Free.

CORK WINE BAR Audrey Bernstein & the Young Jazzers CD release (jazz), 7 p.m. Free.

THE RESERVOIR RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM Something With Strings (bluegrass) 10 p.m. Free.

TUPELO MUSIC HALL Chadwick Stokes (singer-songwriter) 8 p.m., $28. AA

champlain valley

CITY LIMITS Dance Party with DJ Earl (Top 40), 9 p.m. Free

northern

BEE'S KNEES Woodchuck's Revenge (acoustic) 11 a.m. Donations. Lasso Cameo (electric roots) 7:30 p.m. Donations.

MOOG'S Tallgrass Getdown (bluegrass) 9 p.m. Free.

PHAT KATS TAVERN Hot Neon Magic (80s New Wave) 10 p.m. $5

RIMROCKS MOUNTAIN TAVERN DJ Two Rivers (hip hop) 10 p.m. Free

ROADSIDE TAVERN DJ Diego (Top 40) 9 p.m. Free

RUSTY NAIL Banka (world music) 9 p.m. $5. Banka (world music) 9:30 p.m. $5.

regional

MONOPOLE Timere Coup (rock) 10 p.m. Free.

TABU CAFÉ & NIGHTCLUB All Night Dance Party with DJ Toxic (Top 40). 5 p.m., Free.

SUN.04

burlington area

1/2 LOUNGE Legotronix (EDM) 9 p.m. Free

CLUB METRONOME Back to the Future (urban jamz) 10 p.m. Free.

HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM We Came As Romans, Emmure, Sleeping With Sirens, Attila, Lions Lions, For All I Am (post-hardcore) 7 p.m., $16/18. AA.

HIGHER GROUND SHOWCASE LOUNGE Phish Hampton/Winston-Salem '97" release party (jam) 7 p.m. $5. AA

MONKEY HOUSE Comedy Night Kathleen Kanz, Josh Star, the Real Beth, John Lyons, Dustin Truley, Colin Ryan (standup) 7 p.m. $5. 18+

MONTY'S OLD BRICK TAVERN George Voland JAZZ, Emily Day and Dan Skea (jazz) 4:30 p.m. Free

NECTAR'S Mi Yard Reggae Night with Big Dog & Demus 9 p.m. Free.

RADIO BEAN Old Time Sessions (old-time) 1 p.m., Free. Tango Sessions, 7 p.m., Free. Knox (rock) 10 p.m. Free. Dukes County Love Affair (rock) 11 p.m. Free.

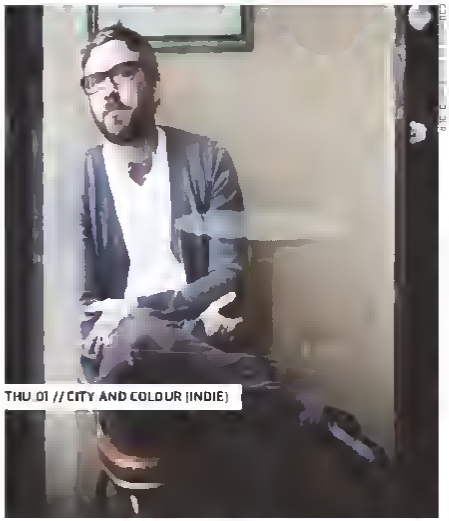
central

TUPELO MUSIC HALL George Winston (piano) 8 p.m., $50/55. AA.

northern

BEE'S KNEES Cody Michaels (piano) 11 a.m. Donations. Pierce Edens (acoustic) 7:30 p.m. Donations

YE OLDE ENDLAND INNE Corey Beard, Dan Liptak and Dan Haley (jazz) 11:30 a.m. Free.



THU 01 // CITY AND COLOUR (INDIE)

Hell on Wheels CITY AND COLOUR is the subtly clever alias of Canadian songwriter Dallas Green. (City Color Get it?) The Juno Award winner — that's the Canadian equivalent of the Grammy — has long been a favorite of discerning northern indie fans for his work with the band Alexisonfire. But it's Green's latest record as City and Colour, *Little Hell*, that has hooked audiences around the globe. The record is an intimate exposition of swooning chamber pop and indie folk that both thrills and chills. This Thursday, December 1, catch City and Colour at the Higher Ground Ballroom with **HACIENDA**.

MON.05

burlington area

1/2 LOUNGE Family Night Open Jam 10 p.m. Free.

HIGHER GROUND SHOWCASE LOUNGE Planet of the Abts featuring Matt Abts & Jorgen Carlson of Gov't Mule (rock) 8 p.m., $14/16. AA.

NECTAR'S Metal Monday: Krogg, Filthy Minutes of Fame, Swiftshire (metal) 9 p.m. Free/$5 18+

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Open Mic with Wylie, 7 p.m. Free.

RADIO BEAN Pierce Edens (singer-songwriter) 6 p.m., Free. Anders Parker (singer-songwriter) 7 p.m. Free. Open Mic, 8 p.m. Free.

RED SQUARE Industry Night with Bobble J (hip-hop) 11 p.m. Free.

ROZZI'S LAKESHORE TAVERN Trivia Night, 8 p.m. Free

RUBEN JAMES Why Not Monday? with Dakota (hip-hop), 10 p.m. Free.

central

BAGITOS Open Mic, 7 p.m. Free

northern

MOOG'S Seth Yacovone (solo acoustic blues) 8 p.m., Free.

TUE.06

burlington area

1/2 LOUNGE DJs JJ Dante & Jordan Steez (eclectic) 10 p.m. Free

CLUB METRONOME Bass Culture with DJs Jahson & Nickel B (dubstep) 9 p.m. Free.

LEUNIG'S BISTRO & CAFÉ Dayve Huckett (jazz) 7 p.m. Free

MONKEY HOUSE Anecdote, Fear and Fright (storytelling) 7 p.m. Free

MONTY'S OLD BRICK TAVERN Open Mic, 6 p.m. Free.

NECTAR'S Ben Taylor, DCLA, Phil DaRosa (folk) 9 p.m. $7/10. 18+

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Trivia with Tap Mat Entertainment, 7 p.m. Free.

RADIO BEAN Gua Gua (psychotropical), 6 p.m., Free. The Amida Bourbon Project (folk rock) 8:30 p.m. Free. Honky Tonk Sessions (honky-tonk) 10 p.m. $3

RED SQUARE Upsetta Internacional with Super K (reggae), 7 p.m. Free

central

BAGITOS Comedy Night with Antennae Wilde (standup) 8 p.m. Free

CHARLIE O'S Karaoke, 10 p.m. Free

SLIDE BROOK LODGE & TAVERN Tattoo Tuesdays with Andrea (jam) 5 p.m., Free

champlain valley

51 MAIN Dulzz Night (trivia) 7 p.m. Free

TWO BROTHERS TAVERN Monster Hits Karaoke 9 p.m. Free.

northern

BEE'S KNEES Carol Ann Jones (singer-songwriter) 7:30 p.m., Donations.

MOOG'S Open Mic/Jam Night, 8:30 p.m., Free

WED.07

burlington area

1/2 LOUNGE Rewind with DJ Craig Mitchell (retro) 10 p.m. Free

CLUB METRONOME 2K Deep and Mushpost present Clusterf*k (EDM), 9 p.m., $5/8. 18+

FRANNY ITS Karaoke 9:30 p.m., Free.

LEUNIG'S BISTRO & CAFÉ Paul Asbell & Clyde Stats (jazz) 7 p.m. Free.

MANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB Open Mic with Andy Luge 10 p.m. Free.

MONKEY HOUSE MSR & AM Present Woods, MV & EE, DJ Disco Phantom (indie) 9 p.m. $10. 18+

NECTAR'S 2K Deep and Mushpost present Clusterf*k (EDM) 9 p.m., $5/8. 18+

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Cooper & Lavoie (blues) 7 p.m. Free

RADIO BEAN Tim Berry (singer-songwriter) 6 p.m. Free. Tom Waits Birthday Celebration: Eric Olsen, Bob Gagnon, Joe Adler (Tom Waits tribute), 11 p.m. Free. Ensemble V (jazz) 7:30 p.m. Free. Irish Sessions, 9 p.m. Free.

RED SQUARE DJ Cre8 (hip-hop) 11 p.m. Free. Andric Severance X tet (jazz) 7 p.m. Free

central

BAGITOS Acoustic Blues Jam, 8 p.m. Free

GUSTO'S Open Mic with John Lackard, 9 p.m. Free

PURPLE MOON PUB Phineas Gage (bluegrass) 8 p.m. Free.

champlain valley

CITY LIMITS Karaoke with Let It Rock Entertainment, 9 p.m. Free

ON THE RISE BAKERY Open Blues Session, 8 p.m. Donations.

northern

BEE'S KNEES Audrey Bernstein & the Young Jazzers (jazz) 7:30 p.m. Donations.

MOOG'S Dale and Darcy (folk), 8:30 p.m. Free

regional

MONOPOLE Open Mic, 8 p.m., Free. ⓐ

VENUES.411

BURLINGTON AREA

1/2 LOUNGE, 136 1/2 Church St Burlington, 865-0012.

242 MAIN St., Burlington, 862-2244

AMERICAN FLATBREAD 115 St. Paul St., Burlington 861-2999

AUGUST FIRST 149 S Champlain St., Burlington, 540-0060

BACKSTAGE PUB 60 Pearl St., Essex Jct. 878-5434

BANANA WINDS CAFÉ & PUB 1 Market Pl., Essex Jct. 879-0752.

THE BLOCK GALLERY 1 E. Allen St. Winooski 373-5150.

BLUEBIRD TAVERN, 3117 Riverside Ave. Burlington 428-4696

BREAKWATER CAFÉ 1 King St. Burlington 658-6276

BRENNAN'S PUB & BISTRO UVM Davis Center 590 Main St. Burlington 656-1204

CITY SPORTS GRILLE, 215 Lower Mountain View Dr., Colchester 655-2720.

CLUB METRONOME, 188 Main St. Burlington 865-4563

FRANNY O'S 733 Queen City Park Rd. Burlington 863-2909

THE GREEN ROOM, 86 St. Paul St. Burlington 651-9669.

HALVORSON'S UPSTREET CAFÉ, 16 Church St. Burlington 656-0278

HIGHER GROUND 1214 Williston Rd. S. Burlington 652-0777

JP'S PUB 139 Main St. Burlington 658-5389

LEUNIG'S BISTRO & CAFÉ, 115 Church St. Burlington 863-3759

LIFT, 165 Church St. Burlington, 860-2088.

THE LIVING ROOM 754 W Lakeshore Dr. Colchester

MANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB 167 Main St. Burlington 864-6776

MARRIOTT HARBOR LOUNGE, 25 Cherry St. Burlington 854-4700

MIGUEL'S ON MAIN 30 Main St., Burlington 658-9000.

MONKEY HOUSE, 30 Main St. Winooski 655-4563.

MONTY'S OLD BRICK TAVERN 7921 Williston Rd. Williston 316-4262.

MUDDY WATERS, 184 Main St., Burlington 658-0466.

NECTAR'S, 188 Main St., Burlington 658-4771.

NEW MOON CAFÉ, 150 Cherry St. Burlington 383-1505.

O'BRIEN'S IRISH PUB 348 Main St. Winooski 338-4678

ODD FELLOWS HALL, 1416 North Ave. Burlington 862-3209

ON TAP PUB & GRILL, 4 Park St., Essex Jct. 878-3309.

OSCAR'S BISTRO & BAR, 190 Boxwood Dr. Williston, 878-7082

PARIMA 185 Pearl St., Burlington, 864-7917

PARK PLACE TAVERN, 38 Park St. Essex Jct. 878-3015

RADIO BEAN 8 N. Winooski Ave. Burlington, 660-9346.

RASPUTIN'S, 163 Church St., Burlington 864-3324.

RED SQUARE 136 Church St. Burlington 859-9508

REGULAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION 184 Weaver St., Winooski 655-9898

RÉRA IRISH PUB 123 Church St., Burlington, 860-9401.

RIZZI'S LAKESHORE TAVERN, 1022 W. Lakeshore Dr., Colchester 863-2342.

RUBEN JAMES, 168 Main St., Burlington, 864-0744

THE SCUFFER STEAK & ALE HOUSE, 148 Church St., Burlington 864-9451.

SHELBURNE STEAKHOUSE & SALOON 2545 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne 985-5009

THE SKINNY PANCAKE, 60 Lake St. Burlington, 540-0188

VENUE, 127 Flynders Point Rd Colchester 310-4067

THE VERMONT PUB & BREWERY 144 College St. Burlington 865-0500

CENTRAL

ARVAD'S GRILL & PUB, 3 S. Main St. Waterbury 244-8873.

BIG PICTURE THEATER & CAFÉ, 48 Carroll Rd. Wartsfield, 496-8834

THE BLACK DOOR 44 Main St. Montpelier 223-7070

BREAKING GROUNDS, 245 Main St. Bethel 392-4222.

THE CENTER BAKERY & CAFE 2007 Guptil Rd., Waterbury Center 244-7500

CHARLIE O'S 70 Main St. Montpelier 223-0820

CJ'S AT THAN WHEELERS 65 Main St. White River Jct. 280-1610

CORK WINE BAR, 15 Stowe St., Waterbury 882-8227

GREEN MOUNTAIN TAVERN, 10 Kelly Ave. Barre 522-2835

GUSTO'S, 28 Prospect St. Barre 476-7313

HEN OF THE WOOD AT THE GRISTMILL, 92 Stowe St. Waterbury 244-7300

HOSTEL TEVERE, 203 Powderhound Rd., Warren 496-9222.

KISMET 52 State St. 223-1646.

L.A.C.E. 159 N. Main St. Barre 476-4276

LOCAL FOLK SMOKEHOUSE, 9 Rt. 7 Waitsfield, 496-5623

MAIN STREET GRILL & BAR, 118 Main St. Montpelier 223-3188.

MULLIGAN'S IRISH PUB, 9 Maple Ave. Barre, 479-5545

NUTTY STEPH'S, 9616 Rt. 2 Middlesex 229-2080

PICKLE BARREL NIGHTCLUB, Killington Rd., Killington 422-3035

POSITIVE PIE 2 20 State St., Montpelier 228-0453.

PURPLE MOON PUB Rt. 100 Waitsfield 496-3422.

THE RESERVOIR RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM 1 S. Main St. Waterbury 244-7827

SLIDE BROOK LODGE & TAVERN 3180 German Flats Rd Warren 583-2202.

SOUTH STATION RESTAURANT 170 S. Main St. Rutland, 775-1736

TUPELO MUSIC HALL, 188 S. Main St. White River Jct. 698-8341.

WHITE ROCK PIZZA & PUB 948 Rt 14 Woodbury 225-5915

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

51 MAIN 51 Main St., Middlebury 388-0209

BAR ANTIDOTE, 350 Green St. Vergennes, 877-2555.

BRICK BOX, 30 Center St., Rutland, 775-0570

THE BRISTOL BAKERY 18 Main St. Bristol 453-3280

CAROL'S HUNGRY MIND CAFÉ 24 Merchant's Row Middlebury 388-0101.

CITY LIMITS, 14 Greene St., Vergennes, 877-6919.

CLEM'S CAFÉ 101 Merchant's Row Rutland, 775-3337

DAN'S PLACE, 31 Main St. Bristol 453-2774

THE FARMERS DINER, 59 Maple St. Middlebury 458-0455

GOOD TIMES CAFÉ, Rt. 116, Hinesburg 482-4444

ON THE RISE BAKERY 44 Bridge St. Richmond, 434-7187

SOUTH STATION RESAURANT 170 S. Main St. Rutland, 775-1730

STARRY NIGHT CAFÉ, 5371 Rt. 7 Ferrisburgh 877-6316

TWO BROTHER'S TAVERN 86 Main St. Middlebury 388-0002.

NORTHERN

REE'S KNEES, 82 Lower Main St., Morrisville 888-7899

THE BLUE ACORN 54 N. Main St. St. Albans, 527-0693.

THE BREWSKI, Rt. 108 Jeffersonville 644-6366

CHOWI BELLA, 218 N. Main St. St. Albans, 524-1405

CLAIRE'S RESTAURANT & BAR, 41 Main St. Hardwick, 472-7053.

THE HUB PIZZERIA & PUB 21 Lower Main St. Johnson, 635-7626

THE LITTLE CABARET, 34 Main St. Derby 233-9000

MATTERHORN, 4968 Mountain Rd., Stowe 253-7158

THE MEETINGHOUSE, 4323 Rt. 108 S. Smuggler's Notch, 644-8851

MOOG'S, Portland St. Morrisville 851-8225

MUSIC BOX 147 Creek Rd. Crail sbury 586-7533

OVERTIME SALOON 38 S. Main St. St. Albans 524-0357

PARKER PIE CO. 161 County Rd West Glover 525-3366.

PHAT BATS TAVERN 101 Depot St. Lyndonville 626-3084

PIZZASSO 1899 Mountain Rd. Stowe 253-4411

RIMROCK'S MOUNTAIN TAVERN 3934 Mountain Rd. Stowe 253-8583.

ROADSIDE TAVERN 216 Rt. 7 Milton, 660-8274

RUSTY NAIL BAR & GRILLE, 1190 Mountain Rd. Stowe 253-6245

THE SHED RESTAURANT & BREWERY 1858 Mountain Rd Stowe 253-4765

SHOOTERS SALOON 30 Kingman St., St. Albans, 527-3777

SNOW SHOE LODGE & PUB 13 Main St. Montgomery Center 326-4456

SWEET CRUNCH BAKESHOP 246 Main St. Hyde Park 888-4887

TAMARACK GRILL AT BURKE MOUNTAIN 223 Shelburne Lodge Rd., E. Burke 626-7394

WATERSHED TAVERN 31 Center St. Brandon 247-0100

YE OLDE ENGLAND INNE, 443 Mountain Rd. Stowe 253-5320

REGIONAL

GILLIGAN'S GETAWAY 7160 State Rt. 9, Plattsburgh N.Y. 518-566-6050

MONOPOLE, 7 Protection Ave., Plattsburgh N.Y. 518-563-2222.

NAKED TURTLE, 1 Dock St. Plattsburgh N.Y. 518-566-6200

OLIVE RIDLEY'S 37 Cornt St. Plattsburgh N.Y. 518-324-2200

TABU CAFE & NIGHTCLUB, 14 Margaret St. Plattsburgh N.Y. 518-566-0666

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Flynn Mainstage

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DEADLINE TO ENTER 12/5 AT NOON
WINNER CONTACTED BY 5 P.M.

Small Is Beautiful

"Short Stories," Edgewater Gallery

Middlebury's Edgewater Gallery calls its current show "Short Stories," but the title is only partly literal. All of the 100-plus works on display are indeed short, as in no more than a foot or so tall. Many of them, however, do not tell a story, as in a readily comprehensible narrative.

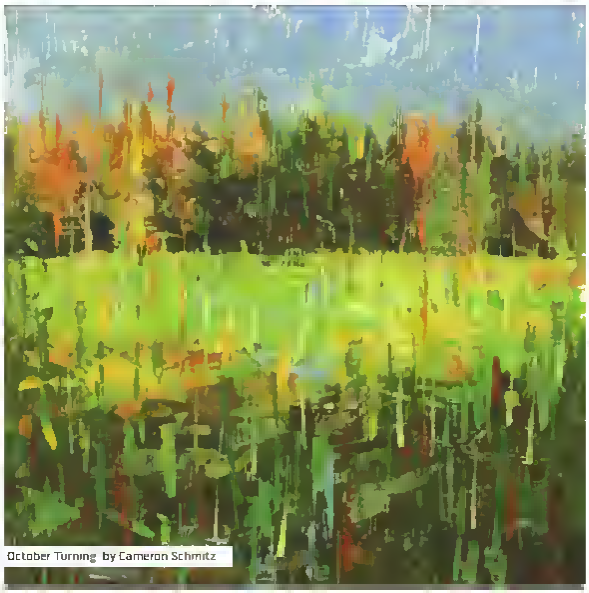
Phyllis Demong, for example, assembles found objects into visually appealing forms that have no beginning, middle or end. These asymmetrical but well-balanced arrangements do have a vaguely nostalgic quality. It's as though random bits of tattered material — a torn tape-measure segment, a shard of jagged wood, a discarded ticket stub — are meant to suggest fragments of memories. Stenciled numbers appear, as well, on some of her pieces, perhaps as a personal means of cataloguing.

REVIEW

Carolyn Shattuck does something similar by grouping together seemingly unrelated images and noncomplementary colors. The effect is somehow harmonious, however. In one of her energetic monotypes, which bears some resemblance to a Jasper Johns collage, Shattuck juxtaposes a cartoonish silhouette of a gesticulating female with a couple of vaselike shapes and an array of background patterns that could be wallpaper. The title, "Cocktail Party I," may cause a viewer to nod in "oh-I-see" agreement.

Edgewater's curators have included a mix of media as well as styles in a show where physical size is about the only common denominator. The quality of work also varies widely, as is to be expected when 27 artists, mostly from Vermont and none with big reputations, are shown side by side.

One of several fiber artists represented in "Short Stories" stands out not only for her distinctively composed Vermont landscapes but for the technical proficiency required to produce them. Deborah Sharpe-Lunstead applies pigmented pulp paper and plant fibers to wet sheets of handmade paper, causing the image to be absorbed into the drying surface. The result can be dazzling.



October Turning by Cameron Schmitz



"Dusk Barn" by Janis Sanders

EDGEWATER'S CURATORS HAVE INCLUDED A MIX OF MEDIA AS WELL AS STYLES IN A SHOW WHERE PHYSICAL SIZE IS ABOUT THE ONLY COMMON DENOMINATOR.

Cameron Schmitz also depicts recognizable Vermont scenes in an oblique manner. This talented young artist has two sets of works in the show, each defined by a seasonal palette.

Green predominates in the first grouping of three oils, but the color is glimpsed through blue, gray and purplish streaks resembling rain. Blurry tree shapes can be discerned in the distance in each of these works.

In four even smaller paintings, viewers enter a late-autumn forest where brown, orange and lime convey a melancholy mood. Schmitz knows how to combine colors to elicit emotional responses, and she's able to conjure moments and places of mystery. She sometimes uses these techniques to go beyond the representational realm. In the last of this four-part series, reading from left to right, Schmitz has transformed the dense but dying foliage into a swirl of scratchings illuminated by a burst of light near the center of the panel.

Sara Katz can employ her palette to evocative ends, as well. With the exception of "Charlotte Boat Yard," an impressionist study of masts in a Lake Champlain harbor, Katz's pieces are noteworthy for the disconnect between her cheery yellows and pastels and the dreary built environments she takes as her subjects. Scenes of distant roadways, passing trains and light poles punctuating flat expanses look like they were sketched far from Vermont, even though a couple are labeled "Hudson Valley."

Katz is working here in Rackstraw Downes' territory. The much older, British-born artist also paints generally unpeopled tableaux of parking lots, highway overpasses and undistinguished buildings, looking for beauty amid the ordinary. Katz's hazy renderings, however, are far less sharply defined than Downes' photo-realism. In fact, a smudgy element highlighted in one of her titles — "Burned Building" — may be glimpsed only in the far distance, if at all.

Katz's objective forms can also be conspicuous without necessarily being decipherable. That's not actually a row of Santas riding go-karts in "Canadian Highway," is it? Either way, Katz qualifies as one of the artists in this eclectic show whose works do tell stories, or at least resemble brightly lit stills from a road movie.

KEVIN J. KELLEY

"Short Stories," Edgewater Gallery in Middlebury. Through December 31.

TALKS & EVENTS

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK More than 30 galleries and other venues around downtown stay open late to welcome pedestrian art viewers. Friday December 2, 5–8 p.m. various downtown locations, Burlington. Info 264-4539

DR. SKETCHY'S ANTI ART SCHOOL Artists age 18 and up bring sketchbooks and pencils to a cabaret-style life-drawing session. This month's theme is "A Very Sketchy Christmas" and features Yule C. LeBeouf as a scrumptious Mrs. Claus. Wednesday December 7, 8–10:30 p.m. American Legion, White River Junction

'CREATIVE COMPETITION' Artists bring a work of any size and medium and face off in the Rose Gallery and Public Art School's people's choice competition. $8 entry fee; winner takes all. Friday December 2, 6–10 p.m. RLP Studio, Burlington. Info 540-3081

PHYLLIS CHASE "Vermont, Inside and Out," a retrospective of paintings and prints. Through December 21 at Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier. Info 223-3338. An evening at the library: Saturday December 3, 7:30–9:30 p.m. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier

POP-UP BOUTIQUE OPENING Toast the opening of Roselle Artwear, a temporary boutique featuring clothing by Vermont fiber artist Roselle Abramowitz. At Well Heeled in Stowe. Reception: Friday, December 2, 4–6 p.m. Info 253-8372

SEBASTIAAN BREMER The New York–based artist, whose work is in the RCA Centers' Outdoor Excursions" exhibit, discusses the photographs he manipulates with ink and acrylics. Wednesday, November 30, 5:30 p.m. Williams Hall, UVM, Burlington. Info 656-2014

HOLIDAY SALE & RECEPTION. Work in a variety of media. Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. GRACE Hardwick. Info, 472-6857

'CELEBRATE' Three floors of affordable crafts and fine art by local artists. Through December 30 at Studio Place Arts in Barre. The "Mad Wrapper" returns to put a creative finishing touch on SPA gifts: Saturday, December 3, noon–3 p.m. Info, 479-7069.

ART FOR IRENE Work by Celeste Forcier, Heather Forcier, Lynn Ann Powers and Robert Vogel; a portion of the proceeds benefit the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund. Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday, December 4, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., 3034 Shelburne Road, Shelburne. Info 985-3455.

NICK MAYER The painter and biologist welcomes the public into his studio to see his watercolor illustrations of fish and other wildlife. Sunday, December 4, noon–5 p.m. Escape Studio, Lincoln. Info 453-7005.

MIDDLEBURY STUDIO SCHOOL SALE Affordable pottery by studio artists' cards, jewelry, students' work and seconds. Proceeds benefit the school. Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Middlebury Studio School. Info 247-3702.

A CHILD'S DELIGHT' Antique toys and games; historic photographs and holiday decorations; plus the Middlebury Train Club's three-level electric train layout. December 3 through January 14 at Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History in Middlebury. The annual open house features era-appropriate floral arrangements, children's activities, caroling, a craft project, Christmas cookies and a raffle. Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday, December 4, noon–4 p.m. Info 388-2117.

CAROL MACDONALD & DEB KIEL Prints, cards, sketchbooks and silver jewelry on sale for the holidays. Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. 4 p.m. Sunday, December 4, noon–4 p.m. Carol MacDonald Studio, Colchester. Info 862-9037.

CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS HOLIDAY HOP Work by Ellen Thompson, Terry Zigmund, Kevin Gettlin and many others at venues all over the Islands. E-mail imtheirightplace@gmail.com for a map. Saturday, December 3, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. various locations, Champlain Islands. Info 378-4591.

MARY BOEHM & BETH DAMON A holiday open house features Boehm's porcelain and terra cotta works and Damon's nature-inspired art. Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4, noon–5 p.m. 80 College Street, Montpelier. Info 272-3108.

'HOT GLASS, POLAR BEARS AND GLOGG' AO Glass offers Swedish meatballs, a cash bar and glass bears in celebration of its first official partnership with Polar Bear International. Saturday, December 3, 6–8 p.m. Magilanero Café, Burlington. Info 540-0223.

'HEART TO HAND' The collective offers discounts on jewelry as part of its annual holiday show and sale. Friday through Saturday, December 2–3, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Alchemy Jewelry Arts Collective, Burlington. Info, 660-2032.

RECEPTIONS

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GROUP EXHIBIT A constantly evolving display of juried artisans' holiday-themed creations. Through December 2 at Frog Hollow in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–8 p.m. Info, 863-6458.

HOLIDAY ART SHOW & SALE. Work by Matt Thorsen, Mr. Masterpiece, Winnie Looby, Melissa Knight, and Elhan and Jesse Azarian. December 3 through 31 at Rose Street Co-op Gallery in Burlington. The gallery opens for a preview on Friday, December 2, 5–9 p.m. Reception: Saturday, December 3, 5–9 p.m. Info 540-6376.

DECEMBER FEATURED ARTISTS Cut-paper creations by Nicole Bregant; origami dragons by Dan Flanders; landscape and portrait photography by James Gero. December 1 through 31 at North End Studio A in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–7 p.m. Info, 863-6713.

LORRAINE REYNOLDS & LISA LILLIBRIDGE Mixed-media assemolages by Reynolds; painted and carved wood pieces by Lillibridge. December 1 through 31 at Vintage Inspired in Burlington. A reception doubles as a grand opening for the new marketplace for antique dealers, artists and craftspeople. Friday, December 2, 5–8 p.m. Info, 578-8304.

JOLENE GARANZHA & DANA DALE LEE "Loonatic Tales and Other Happy Omens" drypoint etchings by Garanzha; oil paintings by Lee. December 2 through January 30 at Vintage Jewelers in Burlington. Reception: Astrocat perform. Friday, December 2, 5–8 p.m. Info, 862-2233.

NEAL RANTOUL "Lions and Tigers and Bears (Oh My!)" photographs taken in 17 different Cabela's stores since 2004 by the director of Northeastern University's photography program. December 2 through 22 at PHOTOSTOP in White River Junction. Reception with live music by Julie Velle and Laura Simon. Friday, December 2, 5–8 p.m. Rantoul offers reviews to local photographers by appointment. Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Info, 698-0320.

SUSANNAH ALLEN Gifts from Allen's Vermont Apron Company, as part of Manglione's holiday studio sale. December 1 through January 1at Jackie Manglione Studio in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–8 p.m. Info, 598-1504.

DECEMBER ARTISTS Work by potter Marcia Hagwood; pen-and-ink artist Harald Aksdal; painter Jim Foote; crocheter and jewelry maker Kelee Maddox; doll maker Alison Dezotelle; and photographer Wayne Tarr. December 1 through 31 at Artist in Residence Cooperative Gallery in Enosburg Falls. Reception: Sunday, December 4, 1–4 p.m. Info, 933-8403.

'CELEBRATE THE SEASON' Paintings by Julie A. Dave, Betty Ball, Carolyn Walton, Gail Bessette, Athenia Schinto, Susan Hull Riley and Charles Townsend; jewelry by Tineke Russell. A portion of proceeds benefit the Bentley Davis Seifer Memorial Foundation. December 3 through January 30 at Luann-Jones Gallery in Shelburne. Reception: Saturday, December 3, 2–7 p.m. Info, 985-8223.

'2011 PORTFOLIO OF PRINTS & HOLIDAY SHOW' Limited-edition prints by 26 artist members and faculty from Vermont and New Hampshire. December 2 through January 31 at Two Rivers Printmaking Studio in White River Junction. Reception and celebration of the studio's 10th anniversary: Friday, December 2, 6–8 p.m. Info 295-5901.

SABAA FIELD "Cosmic Geometry Suite," woodblock prints exploring universal order. Through January 30 at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center. Reception: Wednesday, November 30, 6–8 p.m. Info 728-1231.

WINTER SHOW Paintings by Elizabeth Nelson and many others. December 2 through January 21 at Furchgott Sourdiffe Gallery in Shelburne. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Info, 985-3848.

HARRIET WOOD New abstract paintings and works in clay. December 1 through January 2 at Catamount Arts Center in St. Johnsbury. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–7 p.m. Info 748-2600.

'FESTIVAL OF TREES & LIGHT' & MEMBERS SHOW Community-decorated evergreens and Hanukkah lights; artwork by members. December 2 through 31 at Helen Day Art Center in Stowe. Reception: Carols and Hanukkah songs set the mood. Friday, December 2, 5–7 p.m. Info, 253-8358.

BETH BARNUT "Winter," hundreds of collaged postcards that the artist has made and sent out over the past 20 holiday seasons. December 4 through 31 at Emile A. Gruppe Gallery in Jericho. Reception: Sunday, December 4, 2–4 p.m. Info, 899-3211.

PHYLLIS DEMONG New oil-on-paper works by the Cornwall nonagenarian. **'SHORT STORIES'** Small works under $500. December 1 through 31 at Edgewater Gallery in Middlebury. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–7 p.m. Info 458-0098.

HOLIDAY MINIATURE SHOW Small works by Eric Tobin, Charles Movalli, Gary Eckhart, Katharine Montstream and Mark Boedges. December 2 through 31 at Mark Boedges Fine Art Gallery in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 6–9 p.m. Info 735-7317.

FRANGLAIS "The Decembering Tide," drawings and paintings created collaboratively and independently by the artduo. December 2 through 31 at Dostie Bros. Frame Shop in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–8 p.m. Info, 660-9005.

FINISSAGE Selected works by artists featured at SEABA-curated sites over the past year. December 2 through January 31 at SEABA Center in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–8 p.m. Info, 859-9222.

NATHAN CAMPBELL "Own and Occupy," an interactive video game. Curated by SEABA. December 2 through February 24 at VCAM Studio in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–8 p.m. Info 651-9682.

'SMALL WORKS' Artwork perfectly sized for gift giving. **SMALL GIFTS'** Everything under $50 in the Back-space Gallery. December 2 through January 28 at S.P.A.C.E. Gallery in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–9 p.m. Info 578-2512.

CYNTHIA CRAWFORD "Creatures, Kinships and Natural Affinities": photographs and paintings of Upper Valley wildlife and scenery. Through January 18 at Zollikofer Gallery at Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–7 p.m. Info 295-3118.

HEATHER ENYINGI High-contrast photographs of the human body. December 2 through 31 at Red Square in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–9 p.m. Info 316-2438.

SUSAN DIMOND Paintings by the Vermont artist. December 1 through 31 at Alchemy Jewelry Arts Collective in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–8 p.m. Info 660-2032.

LORIH BUCKMAN "Girl Faces the Street," photographic street portraits. Through December 4 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington. Reception: Friday, December 2, 5–7 p.m. Info 864-0471.

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Wild Kingdom

Eyewitness: Barbara Zucker

BY MEGAN JAMES

Barbara Zucker can't help herself. When, through the windshield of her car, she spots an animal swooping down above her or darting through the trees, the 71-year-old sculptor shouts a giddy, "Hi!"

Zucker, who assures a small audience at the University of Vermont's Special Collections that she is, despite her impulsive animal salutations, a mature person, began documenting those fleeting encounters in 1996. For the next three years, on long drives between New York City, Philadelphia and her home in Burlington, she had a simple mission: Record all the animals she saw. Guidelines kept things interesting: "No roadkill, no crows, no sparrows," Zucker explains. Some days she'd get lucky — such as the time she drove through a cloud of monarch butterflies — others, she'd see nothing.

It was a kind of car game, largely motivated by the monotony of the highway. Zucker took notes while she drove. "I know I was a danger to the road," she admits. But it was worth it. Twenty years later, the result is her new artist book, *Animal Sightings*.

Over the past few decades, Zucker has exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Brooklyn Museum and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, among many other national and international venues. She's lived in Burlington since she began teaching art at UVM in 1979, hence all that time on the road.

Only 10 copies of the limited edition book have been printed. Each of their 55 pages features carefully composed markings representing different animals. A green-and-brown dot represents a mallard, for example. A tan mark severed by a single red line represents a deer Zucker witnessed navigating traffic on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. "I knew it was going to die," she says.

She made some of the markings fuzzy to the touch with flocking, "a kind of joyously vulgar material," she says, pointing out that it's often found on the bottoms of trophies or in steakhouse décor. "I've always loved the stuff." It was warm and tactile enough to serve as a metaphor for feathers or fur and to remind people of Dorothy Kunhardt's classic children's book *Pat the Bunny*.

A single orange marking graces the cover of each book, situated so that, when all 10 are lined up, the dots create the meandering path of animal tracks. As soon as Zucker sold a book, she knew the path would be broken forever — just as tracks in nature are ephemeral. "Once it rains or once the snow goes away, you never see them anymore," she says.

Throughout the process, Zucker says, "I was trying to capture what couldn't be captured."

A walk through her Burlington studio offers a mini-retrospective, including the first piece Zucker made for "Time Signatures," a series of sculptures analogous to the wrinkles on women's faces. She has gone on to re-create the crow's feet and laugh lines of friends and famous women — among them Rosa Parks, Georgia O'Keeffe, Isak Dinesen, Lucy Lippard and Linda Nochlin. But, to begin the project in 1998, she modeled in spidery steel the topography of her own neck. "I thought I would start with myself, since that's where the trouble began," she says dryly.

Taken out of context, Zucker found, the wrinkles could be as beautiful as the "meandering paths rivers cut through the land, ice cracking on a frozen lake or the surface of the earth in times of drought."

Scattered throughout her studio are pieces from another series, "For Beauty's Sake," which she began in 1989. Abstract forms represent body parts before and after plastic surgery. A wide steel "W" shape placed above a similar "W" with its ends severed so all that's left is a crack is called "Liposuction: Buttocks."

A lot of Zucker's friends were getting plastic surgery back in the late '80s. "I was shocked at how rapidly it was becoming currency," she says.

Zucker, who grew up on the outskirts of Philadelphia, has always been an artist. Her first drawing, at age 6, was inspired by her childhood idol, the Norwegian figure skater Sonja Henie, whom Zucker saw perform at the Ice Capades.

As she got older, Zucker continued to draw, but she was also interested in dance and theater. So, rather than go to art school, she got her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan. That's where she took her first sculpture class and where her instructor, abstract expressionist sculptor Joseph Goto, told her, through clenched teeth, "You have to learn to fight.'

She admits she's not sure if she ever did. But sculpture appealed to her. "You got your hands in it," she says. "It was palpable. It was real. You could confront it and move it."

Before the plastic surgery series, Zucker's work was not linked, as it has been since, to cultural issues. In the case of her book, that issue is "the loss of our environment." She stresses, however, that the book isn't dark. "I wanted it to be about hope," she says.

"If I'm driving and I see a swan on some body of water, to me, that's a gift," Zucker explains. "I've communed with nature, even though it's through a windshield."

Zucker sees her flocked marks as a kind of hieroglyphics. They may be abstract, but they're definitely not random. For each mark that made it into the book, she threw out many. There are good blobs and bad blobs, she notes, just as, in drawing, "there are lines that speak; they're alive, and then there are lines that have nothing going on."

Animal Sightings represents a departure for Zucker, not just because it's her first artist book, but because it draws directly from the natural world for inspiration. "When I was a young person starting out as an artist, I wanted to see as much [art] as possible, to feed my head," she says. "As I get older, the way I want to be fed has changed." These days, nature nourishes her as much as a trip to the Met might have in the past.

Still, she values her place in the art world. "Sometimes going to galleries is like taking my vitamins," she says. "I don't have the same excitement as in the car, waving at a hawk." ⑦



Barbara Zucker holding a piece from "Time Signatures."

MATTHEW THORSEN

IF I'M DRIVING AND I SEE A SWAN ON SOME BODY OF WATER, TO ME, THAT'S A GIFT. I'VE COMMUNED WITH NATURE, EVEN THOUGH IT'S THROUGH A WINDSHIELD.

BARBARA ZUCKER

Animal Sightings by Barbara Zucker. $1000. For more info call 598-5342 or email info@lipeal.com

CALL TO ARTISTS

SEEKING ARTISTS FOR SHOW Vermont fine art festival seeks vendors. May 25 through 28, 2012. vtartsanfestival.com

THE HUMAN FORM ENTRY CALL Simple yet subtly complex: always present yet hidden. Expose your vision. A juried photography exhibit at Darkroom Gallery. Info: darkroomgallery.com/ex24. Deadline: December 28.

THE HOLLY DAZE Seeking artwork representing iconic images of the holidays in America with a focus on the relationship between commercialism and belief. Info: artsallvet@yahoo.com

A METAFESTO Connectivity. Emergence. Technology. Artists: send us your digital work for the second annual Emergent Media Symposium on December 9 at Champlain College. Deadline: December 1. Info: metafesto2011@gmail.com.

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY "Build Environment," a juried photography exhibit of images capturing visions of the man-made world. Deadline: December 1. Exhibit dates: December 27 through January 20. Info: darkroomgallery.com/ex23.

WEATHERING IT OUT In recent months, we've experienced pelting rains, hurricanes, unrelenting blizzards, flash floods and mudslides. Artists are urged to explore how they are weathering the weather, using a variety of media and perhaps incorporating items salvaged from a weather event. Show dates: January 24 through February 25, 2012. Deadline: December 9, 2011. Info: studioplecearts.com.

CHANDLER CALL TO ARTISTS. Chandler Gallery in Randolph seeks artists for the upcoming exhibit, Art of the Chair: Process and Possibility. January 21 through March 6, 2012. The subject is the chair; the concept is beyond the limits of sitting. It is about process, utility, history, sentiment, from representational to the obscure. Looking for innovative multimedia submissions (digital, conceptual, 2-D, 3-D). Deadline: December 31. Info, 431-0204, qpearlmay@valley.net.

2012: WOMEN IN THE ARTS Rutland's Chaffee Art Center is accepting submissions from Vermont women artists interested in being featured during a festival for women in the arts. Deadline, January 1. Info, info@chaffeeartcenter.org.

RECEPTIONS « P.79

ONGOING

burlington area

AIA VERMONT ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION Vermont entries in the American Institute of Architects design-excellence competition; visitors can vote for the people's choice award. Through December 7 at Windows & Doors by Brownell in Williston. Info, 425-6162.

ANDREW BAFFERY "Open House," a five-part print series, as well as the artist's preparatory drawings and models, depicting moments in the process of shopping for a new home. Through December 16 at Fleming Museum, UVM in Burlington. Info, 656-0750.

DELIA ROBINSON Artwork from *Alphabella Pesticide*, a new book of poetry by Antonelle Borra; also, "Captive," new paintings. Through December 29 at Flynndog in Burlington. Info, 863-0093.

JAMES MARC LEAS Oil paintings that blur the line between landscape and abstraction. Curated by SEARA. December 2 through February 24 at Pine Street Deli in Burlington. Info, 862-9614.

KIMBERLEY HANNAMAN TITLOR Photographs from the banks of the Mississippi River during the New Orleans memorial for Poppa Neutrino. Through December 1 at Computers for Change in Burlington. Info, 279-1623.

MARY HILL Paintings. Curated by SEARA. December 2 through February 24 at Speeder & Earl's (Pine Street) in Burlington. Info, 658-6016.

MOLLY DAVIES A retrospective spanning three decades and featuring meditative underwater video works, including a collaboration with composer David Tudor and another starring a swimming Polly Motley, the Vermont choreographer. Through December 31 at Amy E. Tarrant Gallery, Flynn Center in Burlington. Info, 652-4500.

NICHOLAS HEILIG "Pop Up People," stencil-inspired portraits of icons such as Marilyn Monroe, Bob Ross, James Bond and Martin Luther King Jr. Through January 1 at Nunyuns Bakery & Café in Burlington. Info, 861-2067.

"OUTDOOR EXCURSIONS" Work by 13 internationally acclaimed artists — including sculpture, video and wall works made of thousands of Icelandic lava chips — curated by *Art in America* writer Gregory Volk, who aimed to transform the First, Second and Fourth Floor Galleries into his version of a wilderness adventure. Through December 3 at BCA Center in Burlington. Info, 865-7166.

PAIGE HALSEY WARREN "Pages," graphic novel–inspired acrylic paintings. **LONGINA EMOLINSKI** Abstract paintings. Through January 2 at The Daily Planet in Burlington. Info, 917-287-9370.

PATRICIA LYON-SURRET "Romancing the Art of Photography," work full of montage, painting and color play. December 3 through 31 at Marilyn's in Burlington. Info, 658-4050.

SILENT ART AUCTION Proceeds from the sale of artwork benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Organized by the Nu Gamma Colony of the University of Vermont's Phi Mu Delta Fraternity. Through December 9 at Levity Café in Burlington. Info, 730-4234.

STEWART MCHENRY "Fall and Winter Photographs," photographic collages. December 2 through 30 at Pickering Room, Fletcher Free Library in Burlington. Info, 865-7211.

"THINK OUT OF THE BOX" Artwork and holiday gifts, all under $50, by local artisans. Through December 31 at Black Gallery in Winooski. Info, 373-5150.

"THREE SENIORS EXHIBIT" Art Affair by Shearer presents work by Kim, Sylvie and Pogo Senior. Through December 31 at Shearer Chevrolet in South Burlington. Info, 658-7171.

WINOOSKI HOLIDAY POP-UP ART MARKET Artists and artisans sell their wares in a vacant storefront on the top right side of the traffic circle. Through December 31 in Winooski. Info, 264-4839.

WOMEN ARTIST GUILD OF RICHMOND HOLIDAY MARKET Work by seven local artists and craftspeople displayed in an old driving range. Through December 22 at 6180 Williston Road in Williston. Info, 238-7994.

"WOSENE WORKE KOSROF: PAINTINGS FROM THE PAUL HERZOG AND JOLENE TRITT COLLECTION An exhibit exploring the role of language and graphic systems in the Ethiopian-born artist's work. **"SYSTEMS IN ART"** An exploration of the systems that artists use to establish parameters for their work, to explore spatial relationships, and to invent new grammars and rationalities, on the occasion of IBM's centennial anniversary. Through December 16 at Fleming Museum, UVM in Burlington. Info, 656-0750.

CENTRAL VT ART SHOWS » P.82

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JUST ANNOUNCED AND ON SALE

12/10 SAT Burlington Bowl @ Memorial Auditorium
1/14 SAT The Bengsons: "Music from Hundred Days" @ FlynnSpace
1/28 SAT What's Alive Inside? @ Church Mill, Suite 250
2/7 TUE Sesame Street Live (2/7 & 8) @ Flynn MainStage
2/21 TUE "Stand up, Sit Down & Laugh" @ FlynnSpace

DECEMBER 2011

12/1 THU Warren Miller's "Like There's No Tomorrow" (12/1-2) @ Flynn MainStage
12/1 THU Cosmic Wine Tasting @ Burlington City Arts Firehouse Gallery
12/2 FRI Hurricane Irene Benefit Dance @ The Old Lantern, Charlotte
12/2 FRI Missy Mazzoli and Victoire @ FlynnSpace
12/2 FRI Moxie Smiley and VOICE @ University of Vermont Recital Hall
12/2 FRI WINTAFEST: PUSHAT with Live Band/Rockin' Fresh @ Grand Maple Ballroom, Dudley H. Davis Center, UVM
12/3 SAT Vermont Symphony Orchestra: "Masterworks 2" @ Flynn MainStage
12/3 SAT Robert Glasper @ FlynnSpace
12/3 SAT Bella Voce Women's Chorus: "Christmas Flourish" Concert (12/3-4) @ First Baptist Church
12/4 SUN Vermont Youth Orchestra: "Orchestropalooza" @ Flynn MainStage
12/6 TUE Jim Brickman @ Flynn MainStage
12/7 WED Cherish the Ladies: "A Celtic Christmas" @ Flynn MainStage
12/7 WED Vermont Stage Company: "Winter Tales" (12/7-11) @ FlynnSpace
12/9 FRI The Rose Ensemble @ University of Vermont Recital Hall
12/10 SAT Vermont Symphony Orchestra: "Holiday Pops" @ Flynn MainStage
12/10 SAT Burlington Bowl @ Memorial Auditorium
12/11 SUN Nutcracker Theatre Company: "A Christmas Carol" @ Flynn MainStage
12/11 SUN Nowell Sing We Clear @ Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington
12/14 WED Darlene Love: "Love for the Holidays" @ Flynn MainStage
12/16 FRI Choral Singers @ College Street Congregational Church
12/17 SAT Vermont's Own "Nutcracker" (12/17 & 18) @ Flynn MainStage
12/17 SAT Jane Rosoff – Solo Marimba @ FlynnSpace
12/17 SAT Vermont Youth Orchestra: "Chorus and Concert Chorale" @ Elley-Long Music Center at Saint Michael's College, Colchester
12/17 SAT National Marionette Theatre's "Pinocchio" (12/17 & 18) @ Main Street landing Black Box Theatre
12/19 MON FlynnArts Show Chorus (12/19-20) @ FlynnSpace
12/20 TUE Holiday Cheer Concert with Bella Voce @ All Souls Interfaith Gathering, Shelburne
12/30 FRI Ryan Montbleau Band (12/30-31) @ The Rusty Nail Bar & Grille, Stowe
12/31 SAT Rockin' New Year's Eve @ Sheraton Burlington Conference Center



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BURLINGTON-AREA ART SHOWS « P.81

central

ART RESOURCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SHOW Work by more than 50 area artists. Through December 18 at T.W. Wood Gallery & Arts Center in Montpelier. Info: 828-8743.

'BUNDLE OF JOY' Artwork and craft on sale for the holidays. Through January 21 at Nuance Gallery in Windsor. Info: 674-9616.

DAVID BUMBECK Bronze sculpture and intaglio prints. **JOHN & KATE PENWARDEN** Photographs of post. Irene Rochester. **THE SMALL GREAT ART WALL** Work under $1000 by gallery artists. Through January 15 at BigTown Gallery in Rochester. Info: 767-9670.

HAL MAYFORTH Paintings that combine abstract signs and symbols with creatures in bobnailed boots. Through January 3 at the Skinny Pancake in Montpelier. Info: 262-2253.

HEIDI BRONOR 'At Work,' paintings. Through December 30 at Central Vermont Medical Center in Barre. Info: 371-4375.

HOLIDAY ARTISANS BAZAAR Gifts from more than 50 juried New England artists, craftspeople and specialty food producers. Through December 21 at Chandler Music Hall in Randolph. Info: 728-9878.

JAN GHIRINGHELLI & PHILLIP ROBERTSON Paint and Print: The Vermont Landscape, recent work. Through December 2 at City Center in Montpelier. Info: 229-5209.

JOY HUCKINS-ROSS 'The Texture of Light,' plein air paintings. Through December 29 at Vermont Supreme Court Lobby in Montpelier. Info: 828-0749.

KARI MEYER 'Play of Light,' contemporary landscapes. Through December 31 at Capital Grounds in Montpelier. Info: curator@capitolgrounds.com.

NIKON SMALL WORLD Award winning photomicrographs that offer a glimpse into the microscopic natural world. December 3 through January 16 at Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich. Info: 649-2200.

REBECCA BRISSWENGER-MAXFIELD & MARCELLA ROSE MILNE Paintings by mother and daughter. December 1 through 31 at The Shoe Horn at Onion River in Montpelier. Info: 223-5454.

'THE HISTORY OF GODDARD COLLEGE: AN ERA OF GROWTH, EXPANSION AND TRANSITIONS 1960-1969' An exhibit of photographs, historical records, college papers, interviews and video recordings that focus on the college's response to the rapid growth of the 1960s. In the Elliot D. Pratt Library. Through December 20 at Goddard College in Plainfield. Info: 454-8311.

champlain valley

BACKSTAGE AT THE RAINBOW CATTLE CO.: THE DRAG QUEENS OF DUMMERSTON, VERMONT' Folklife Center audio interviews paired with the photographs of Evie Lovett, who spent two years documenting the queens at the Rainbow Cattle Co., a gay bar on a rural strip of Route 5 just north of Brattleboro. Through December 4 at Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury. Info: 388-4964.

EXHIBIT OF GINGERBREAD CREATIONS Community members create edible masterpieces for the annual competition. December 1 through 17 at Chaffee Art Center in Rutland. Info: 775-0356.

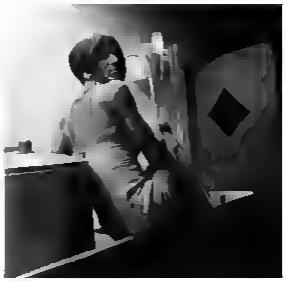
KATRA KINDAR 'Les Bicyclettes de Paris,' watercolor paintings. Through December 24 at rO Studio/Gallery in Vergennes. Info: 585-1014.

'LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW!' Original work by member artists offered for $200 or less, plus handcrafted holiday ornaments. Through January 31 at Brandon Artists' Guild. Info: 247-4956.

'PAINTED METAPHORS: POTTERY AND POLITICS OF THE ANCIENT MAYA' Nineteen Chamá polychrome ceramics accompanied by more than 100 objects illustrating Mayan daily life, religious ritual and shifts in rulership. **'HOW DID I GET HERE?'** Recent acquisitions presented within the context of how they came to Middlebury by art history students. **RICHARD DUPONT** Work that explores opportunities for self surveillance and the perception of identity in an increasingly digital world. Through December 11 at Middlebury College Museum of Art. Info: 443-3168.

'PERSPECTIVES' Art and fine crafts by 20 juried Champlain Valley artists. Through December 31 at Jackson Gallery, Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. Info: 382-9222.

ROBERT BLACK 'The Memory Chamber,' an architectural installation. **'PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY'** An exhibition by photographers of all ages. Through December 23 at Gallery in the Field in Brandon. Info: 247-0125.



'Backstage at the Rainbow Cattle Co.: The Drag Queens of Dummerston, Vermont'

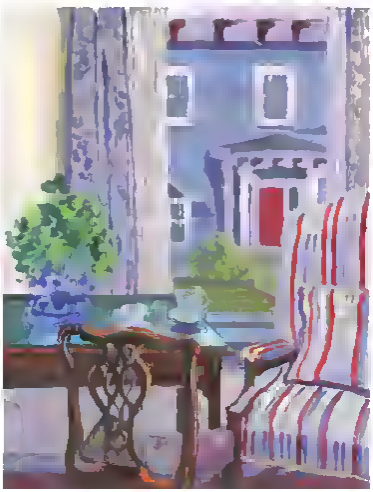
Ever wonder what it takes to transform a Vermont Yankee manager into a bedazzled drag queen? Now's your last chance to catch a glimpse — and hear the voices — of Miss Kitty Rawhide, Miss Candi Schtick, Miss Sophia Penelope Precious, Miss Mercedes Roulette and Miss Mama Mayhem at the Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury. Over the course of two years, photographer Evie Lovett captured black-and-white images of the primping queens as they lovingly applied lipstick and adjusted their panty hose. "I came to deeply respect these men (and one woman) for being in touch with who they are," writes Lovett. "Knowing them has prompted me to ask myself, 'How do I let my hair down?'" Through December 4. Pictured: "Mercedes Roulette on the Sink."

SHERI LARSEN Photographs from Vermont and surrounding states, as well as from Egypt, China and elsewhere. December 1 through January 31 at Charlotte Senior Center. Info 878-6828.

SILKSCREEN EXHIBIT Work by Hedya Klein's students who have explored photo-stencil techniques as well as direct-drawing application and color registration. December 1 through 12 at Johnson Memorial Building, Middlebury College. Info 443-3168.

"THE GOVERNMENT MORGAN" Photographs paintings, prints and leather tack. Through March 31 at The National Museum of the Morgan Horse in Middlebury. Info 388-1639.

"WINTER ALL MEMBERS EXHIBIT" Work by juried and unjuried artists. Through January 31 at Chaffee Art Center in Rutland. Info 775-0356.



Phyllis Chase

What's a plein-air painter to do when the merciless Vermont winter rolls around? In 2002, during a particularly frigid season, Phyllis Chase retreated to her Maple Corner studio and tried her hand at still lifes and interiors. After many years of working outdoors, she was surprised to fall in love with "interior landscapes." Now, she paints indoor scenes filled with the evidence of warmth: teacups, books, chairs arranged to accommodate a friend. Chase aims to portray, "in an intimate and romantic way," she writes on her website, "how we live." Her show, "Vermont Inside and Out," which also includes outdoor landscapes, is at Montpelier's Kellogg-Hubbard Library through December 21. Pictured: "A Slice of Montpelier, With Coffee."

northern

BFA SENIOR EXHIBITS Work by Johnson State College art students. Through December 10 at Julian Scott Memorial Gallery, Johnson State College. Info 635-1468.

BARBARA WAGNER "Something Ventured—Something Gained": abstract works in oil. Through December 31 at Green Mountain Fine Art Gallery in Stowe. Info 253-1818.

BEN BARNES Paintings of gothic mansions and abandoned trucks in rural landscapes. Through January 8 at Claire's Restaurant & Bar in Hardwick. Info 472-7053.

BOBBY ABRAHAMSON "One Summer Across America": photographs of a 2001 cross-country bus trip. Through December 20 at Dibden Center for the Arts, Johnson State College. Info 635-1469.

CAROL BOUCHER "New Work": all pastel paintings created from imagination, memory and personal photographs. Through December 23 at River Arts Center in Morrisville. Info 888-1261.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY SHOW Painting, photography, jewelry and wood sculpture by 13 Island artists. December 1 through 16 at Island Arts South Hero Gallery. Info 372-5048.

FRED SWAN Paintings by the Vermont artist. Through December 31 at Village Frame Shoppe & Gallery in St. Albans. Info 524-3699.

GAYLEEN AIKEN "Music and Moonlight": work by the Vermont artist. Through December 31 at GRACE in Hardwick. Info 472-6857.

JEANETTE FOURNIER "Art of Nature": watercolors depicting creatures in their native surroundings. **TREES**: Paintings, drawings and prints by 85 juried artist members. Through December 23 at Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville. Info 644-5100.

"KICK OFF THE HOLIDAYS" Artwork and crafts by members. Through December 24 at Memphremagog Arts Collaborative in Newport. Info 334-1966.

"LEND A HELPING HAND" A holiday exhibit of Stephen Hunecke's work coinciding with an animal food drive. Through December 23 at Dog Mountain in St. Johnsbury. Info 748-2700.

LORI HINRICHSEN & LIZ KAUFFMAN "Open Ended": paintings, monotypes, intaglio and collage. Through December 12 at Vermont Studio Center in Johnson. Info 635-2727.

"SMALL WORKS" Work by gallery artists, including collographs by Sheryl Trainor and colorful miniatures by Lois Ely. Through January 31 at West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park in Stowe. Info 253-6943.

regional

BILL CROSBY "Environmental Gestures," abstract landscapes in acrylic. Through December 2 at North Country Cultural Center for the Arts in Plattsburgh, N.Y. Info 518-563-1604.

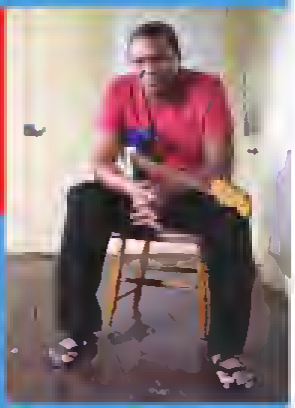
"NATIVE AMERICAN ART AT DARTMOUTH: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HOOD MUSEUM OF ART" More than 100 historical and contemporary works, many on view for the first time, make up an exhibit that explores continuity and change within North American indigenous cultures. Through March 11 at Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, in Hanover, N.H. Info 603-646-2808.

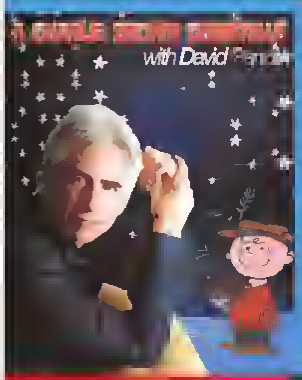
SUE LEZON "Rubáiyát," photographs by the associate professor of art at SUNY Plattsburgh. Through January 15 at Plattsburgh State Art Museum, N.Y. Info 516-564-2474.

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12/20: CIRCO COMEDIA
12/20: SOME ENCHANTED EVENING: THE SONGS OF ROGERS & HAMMERSTEIN
12/30: ANAÏS MITCHELL

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The Descendants ★★★

How to account for the virtually universal acclaim director Alexander Payne has received for his first film in the seven years since *Sideways*? One possibility, it's occurred to me, is that many critics haven't watched *Sideways* in something close to seven years. That might begin to explain the baffling glut of reviews hailing *The Descendants* as its equal.

Which it is not by a long shot. Don't get me wrong. It's a smarter-than-average soap opera with its share of dandy dialogue and fine performances, but a glorified soap opera nonetheless.

One reason the movie might be mistaken for something more, of course, is that it stars George Clooney. As we learned earlier this year with the release of *The Ides of March*, however, the actor's presence is no longer the cinematic *Good Housekeeping* seal it once was.

He plays Matt King, a Honolulu attorney and unlikely land baron. King's extended family is descended from the first white hoodlums who colonized the islands in the 19th century. For reasons never made clear, he's the sole trustee of 25,000 pristine beachfront acres that have been passed down through generations, and his cousins are pressuring him to sell to developers.

King wrestles with his conscience over the matter, but that's suddenly just one front in a perfect storm of problems when his wife, Elizabeth (Patricia Hastie), is thrown from a speeding boat and winds up in a coma. The father of two troubled, spirited daughters, King is a self-described "backup parent," ill equipped to juggle his wife's imminent demise and the emotional needs of his kids. Two of the picture's most convincing performances are turned in by Amara Miller as 10-year-old Scottie and Shailene Woodley as 17-year-old Alex. A real find, Woodley may well prove to be this year's Jennifer Lawrence.

Just when Clooney's character figures life can't possibly get any messier, he learns that Elizabeth has been cheating on him and was planning to ask for a divorce. The scene that follows this revelation is typical of the sort of stylistic misstep Payne makes throughout the movie. In a sequence featured prominently in the picture's trailer and TV spots, the cuckolded husband bolts from his front door in comically noisy slippers and runs through his neighborhood to the home of his wife's best friend (Mary Birdsong) to confirm the news.

A similarly off-key note is struck not long afterward, when King tracks Elizabeth's married lover to a rented seaside bungalow and conducts bug-eyed surveillance from behind a hedge. These absurdist, almost Coenesque touches feel as far out of place in the story as do the weepy, highly sentimental moments the filmmaker stages between Matt and his unconscious mate near the finale.

Payne's latest works best when it treads the middle ground and focuses on the King family's dysfunctional attempt to grapple with its meltdown. Based on Kaui Hart Hemmings' 2007 novel and adapted by Payne, Nat Faxon and Jim Rash, the script serves up a luau of rib-ticklers, but the filmmaker for some reason tends to bury them in the mix, to treat them as throwaways. I picked up several of the funniest lines during my third viewing.



LIFE'S A BEACH Clooney plays a father of two forced to confront trouble in paradise

So, sure, if you can get past all the heart tugging, life lessons and by-the-numbers bonding, there are a handful of amusingly offbeat developments and decent laughs here. At the same time, this is anything but a career topper for its director or star.

The high points arise from interactions with and among the junior members of the cast — including Nick Krause as Alex's variously daffy and sage surfer boyfriend, Sid. Though I suppose, it should prove no surprise that the pithiest moments in a big-screen soap come courtesy of the young and the restless.

RICK KISONAK

REVIEWS

The Muppets ★★★½

If you grew up in the '70s or early '80s, there's a good chance you knew about Gonzo the Great long before you heard of gonzo journalism. You mimicked Miss Piggy's "Hi-ya!" battle cry before you ever saw a martial-arts film, and rocked out to Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem before you ever went to a show.

Kids of that era who grew out of "Sesame Street" by kindergarten often kept a soft spot for the Muppets because the Muppets felt effortlessly relevant and real. Kermit was your mom's soft-spoken postdivorce beau who went to all the seminars and support groups but secretly hated them. Miss Piggy was your suddenly flamboyantly feminist aunt. All those puppets winked at the audience and mocked tired variety-show conventions, making kids feel cool in the golden age of "Saturday Night Live." But the Muppets never lost their soft, idealistic side — they were made of felty stuff, after all.

Actor Jason Segel is one kid who never grew out of the Muppets. So he grew up and, with writer Nicholas Stoller, pitched Disney on a new-generation Muppet movie. The result, directed by James Bobin, is a sweet comedy that could, given the right shared family sensibilities, entertain kids and parents equally. *The Muppets* breaks no new ground, but it's no betrayal of Jim Henson's legacy, either. Our heroes still express their feelings in the endearingly lumpy, twitchy way of hand puppets, not with the faux-human plasticity of computer animations. And that, paradoxically, makes them seem more human.



OF MUPPETS AND MEN Segel and his bro don't see much of a difference in Bobin's retro musical comedy

The story is, of course, totally meta. Segel stars as Gary, a small-town lad whose brother, for reasons never clarified, is of the Muppet persuasion. Walter, the Muppet boy who will never grow up, has the runty wanness of Michael Cera (puppeteer Peter Linz actually used the actor as a model). But he perks up when he starts watching old tapes of "The Muppet Show" and learns that Muppethood was once totally hip.

Gary, Walter and Gary's long-suffering girlfriend, Mary (Amy Adams), make their way to Los Angeles, where they discover the run-down Muppet Theater about to fall prey to a ruthless developer (Chris Cooper). The Muppets, meanwhile, have scattered hither and yon, as cultural icons of yesteryear tend to do. Kermit is holed up in his mansion, Piggy working at Paris *Vogue*. It's up to Walter, Gary and Mary to reunite the gang and save the theater by — what else? — putting on a show.

Classic Hollywood plot? Check. Guest stars with current cultural cred? Check. (Adult viewers will appreciate pop-ins from the likes of Zach Galifianakis and Sarah Silverman.) Silly slapstick gags? Check. Original musical and dance numbers, wittily staged? Check, though not enough of them. Laughs inexplicably wrung from the wordless rendition of an overexposed pop song by chicken puppets? Check.

The movie's joy is infectious, Segel and Adams seem to be having the time of their lives. Still, in the filmmakers' eagerness to give all the old characters their due, the pathos of Walter's coming-of-age story gets a bit lost. His yearning to restore his idols to their former glory dovetails with Gen X viewers' need to know their past still matters, kiddie TV sensations come and go, but Muppets endure.

But do they? Do today's kids feel that shiver down their spines when they hear the opening notes of "The Rainbow Connection," or do they just wish they were watching something involving squeaky-voiced CGI critters? Time, and the box office, will tell.

MARGOT HARRISON

NEW IN THEATERS

MELANCHOLIA Director Lars von Trier goes apocalyptic with this tale of a severely depressed young woman (Kirsten Dunst) who discovers that she can function better than most people when the whole Earth is in danger. With Charlotte Gainsbourg, Kiefer Sutherland and Alexander Skarsgard. (130 min., R. Roxy.)

TAKE SHELTER Michael Shannon plays a man driven to extremes by visions of an apocalyptic storm beaning down on his family in this fest favorite drama from writer-director Jeff (*Shotgun Stories*) Nichols. With Jessica Chastain and Shea Whigham. (120 min. R. Roxy.)

NOW PLAYING

50/50★★★★★ Seth Rogen and Joseph Gordon-Levitt play two good friends grappling with the discovery that one of them has cancer in this serious comedy from director Jonathan (*The Wackness*) Levine. With Anna Kendrick, Bryce Dallas Howard and Anjelica Huston. (100 min. R. Roxy. ends 12/1)

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS★★★1/2 This family comedy adventure from Aardman Animation (*of the Wallace & Gromit films*) explores the real story behind Santa's Yule tide exploits. With the voices of James McAvoy, Bill Nighy and Hugh Laurie. Barry Cook and Sarah Smith directed. (97 min. PG. Bijou, Essex [3-D], Majestic [3-D], Marquis, Palace, Paramount [3-D], Stowe, Welden.)

THE DESCENDANTS★★★ George Clooney plays a Hawaiian grappling with family transitions after his wife suffers an accident in this comedy-drama from director Alexander (Sideways) Payne. With Beau Bridges and Judy Greer. (115 min. R. Palace.)

HAPPY FEET TWO★★1/2 In this sequel to the animated hit, a tap-dancing penguin tries to win his son's respect as they face a threat to their Antarctic world. With the voices of Elijah Wood, Matt Damon and Brad Pitt. George Miller directed. (98 min. PG. Big Picture, Bijou, Capitol [3-D], Essex [3-D], Majestic [3-D], Marquis, Palace, Stowe.)

HUGO★★★★ Martin Scorsese changed pace to direct this fantastical family tale of a mysterious boy who lives in the walls of a Paris train station, based on Brian Selznick's book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. With Asa Butterfield, Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen and Chloe Moretz. (127 min. PG. Essex [3-D], Majestic [3-D], Palace, Roxy.)

IMMORTALS★★ Set in ancient Greece, this adventure tries to recapture the magic (and box office) of *300* with Henry Cavill as the Titan fighting hero Theseus. Mythology nerds, get out your red pens. With Stephen Dorff, Mickey Rourke and Freida Pinto. Tarsem (*The Fall*) Singh directed. (110 min. R. Capitol [3-D], Essex, Majestic [3-D].)

ratings

★ = refund, please
★★ = could've been worse, but not a lot
★★★ = has its moments, so-so
★★★★ = smarter than the average bear
★★★★★ = as good as it gets

RATINGS ASSIGNED TO MOVIES NOT REVIEWED BY **NICK KISONAK** OR **MARGOT HARRISON** ARE COURTESY OF METACRITIC.COM, WHICH AVERAGES SCORES GIVEN BY THE COUNTRY'S MOST WIDELY READ MOVIE REVIEWERS.

J. EDGAR★★★ Clint Eastwood directed this biopic exploring the controversial life and career of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover (Leonardo DiCaprio). With Naomi Watts, Judi Dench and Armie Hammer. (137 min. R. Capitol, Essex, Majestic, Palace, Roxy.)

JACK AND JILL★ Movie-goers have voted with their dollars for more Adam Sandler, so Sandler obliged with this holiday comedy in which he plays both the hero and his obnoxious female twin. With Katie Holmes and Al Pacino. Dennis (*Grown Ups*) Dugan directed. (91 min. PG. Bijou, Capitol, Essex, Majestic, Palace, Welden.)

JANE'S JOURNEY★★1/2 Lorenz Knauer's documentary profiles Jane Goodall, the 75-year-old primatologist turned passionate planetary defender. Angelina Jolie and Pierce Brosnan show up. (107 min. NR. Savoy. ends 12/1.)

LIKE CRAZY★★★1/2 A young couple struggles with separation after visa issues force her to leave the U.S. in this Sundance winning indie love story from director Drake Doremus. With Anton Yelchin, Felicity Jones and Jennifer Lawrence. (89 min. PG-13. Roxy.)

MARGIN CALL★★★ J. C. Chandor wrote and directed this fictional thriller about real-life scary stuff. It takes us inside an investment firm on the brink of the 2008 financial crisis. With Kevin Spacey, Zachary Quinto, Paul Bettany, Jeremy Irons and Demi Moore. (105 min. R. Roxy, Savoy.)

MARTHA MARCY MAY MARLENE★★★★ A young woman struggles to readjust to "normal" life after fleeing a cult in this acclaimed psychological thriller from writer-director Sean Durkin. Starring Elizabeth Olsen, Sarah Paulson and John Hawkes. (120 min. R. Roxy.)

THE MUPPETS★★★1/2 A threat to their theater reunites Kermit, Miss Piggy, Gonzo and the other fuzzy folk in this kids' adventure-slash-Gen-X-nostalgia-fest from Disney and director James Bobin. Jason Segel, Amy Adams and Chris Cooper play the human roles. (98 min. PG. Bijou, Capitol, Essex, Majestic, Palace.)

PUSS IN BOOTS★★★ The swashbuckling, fearsome feline goes after the goose with the golden eggs in DreamWorks' animated prequel-slash-spinoff of the *Shrek* films. With the voices of Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek and Zach Galifianakis. Chris Miller directed. (90 min. PG. Capitol, Essex [3-D], Majestic [3-D], Palace.)

TOWER HEIST★★ Workers at a luxury condo tower plot to get their own back from the resident Wall Street billionaire who stole their retirement funds in this caper comedy from director Brett (*Rush Hour*) Ratner. Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy and Alan Alda star. (104 min. PG-13. Capitol, Majestic, Marquis, Palace.)

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 1★★ At last, with a tripartite title, comes the sparkly vampire wedding ceremony and impregnation we've all been waiting for. Just don't bring nonswoony sentiments to the nuptials of Bella (Kristen Stewart) and Edward (Robert Pattinson). Bill (*Dreamgirls*) Condon directed. (117 min. PG-13. Big Picture, Bijou, Essex, Majestic, Marquis, Palace, Paramount, Roxy, Stowe, Welden.)

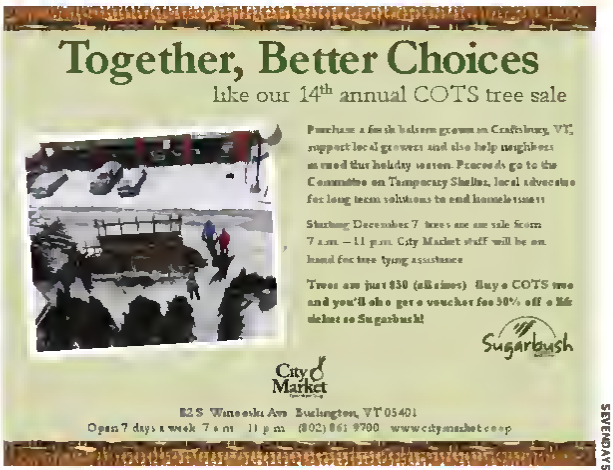
THE WAY★★★ A grieving father (Martin Sheen) follows in his son's footsteps on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage route across Spain in this drama from writer-director Emilio Estevez. With Deborah Kara Unger and Yorick van Wageningen. (115 min. NR. Roxy, Savoy.)

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BIG PICTURE THEATER

48 Cartell Rd. (off Rte 100)
Wallingford, 446-8884 www.bigpicturetheater.info

wednesday 30 — thursday 1
Happy Feet Two 5 7:15 **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1** 6:15, 8:30

Full schedule not available at press time. Times change frequently please check website.

BIJOU CINEPLEX 1-2-3-4

Rte. 100, Morrisville, 888-3283, www.bijou4.com

wednesday 30 — thursday 1
Arthur Christmas 6:40 **The Muppets** 5:50 **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1** 6:30 **Jack and Jill** 7

friday 2 — thursday 8
Arthur Christmas 1:15, 3:45 (Sat, Sun only) 6:30, 8:30 (Fri, Sat only) **The Muppets** 1:15, 3:45 (Sat, Sun only) 6:40, 8:30 (Fri, Sat only) **Happy Feet Two** 1:15, 4:30, 7:45 (Sat, Sun only) **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1** 1:15, 3:45 (Sat, Sun only) 6:50, 9:15 (Fri, Sat only) **Jack and Jill** 7, 9:15 (Fri, Sat only)

CAPITOL SHOWPLACE

93 State St., Montpelier, 229-0343, www.lgtheaters.com

wednesday 30 — thursday 1
The Muppets 6:30, 9, **Happy Feet Two** (3-D) 6:30, **Immortals** (3-D) 9, **Jack and Jill** 6:30, 9, **Tower Heist** 6:30, 9, **J. Edgar** 6:15, 9

friday 2 — thursday 8
The Muppets 1:30 (Sat, Sun only) 6:30, 9 **Happy Feet Two** (3-D) 1:30 (Sat, Sun only) 6:30, 9 **Jack and Jill** 1:30 (Sat & Sun only) 6:30, 9, **Tower Heist** 6:30, 9, **J. Edgar** 1:30 (Sat & Sun only) 6:15, 9 **Puss in Boots** 1:30 (Sat, Sun only)

ESSEX CINEMA

Essex Shoppes & Cinema, Rte. 15 & 289, Essex, 879-6543, www.essexcinemas.com

wednesday 30 — thursday 1
Arthur Christmas 12:35 (3-D) 2:50, 5:10 (3-D) 7:25 (3-D) 9:40 **The Muppets** 1:10, 4:15, 6:40, 9:15 **Happy Feet Two** 12:30 (3-D) 12:50, 2:45 (3-D), 5 (3-D), 5:30, 7:15 (3-D) 7:45, 9:30 (3-D) **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1** 12:30, 12:50, 1:15, 3:45, 4:15, 6:30, 7:15, 9, 9:35, 10 **Immortals** 3:05, 10, **J. Edgar** 1, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30, **Jack and Jill** 12:45, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40 **Puss in Boots** 12:45, (3-D) 2:50, 5, (3-D) 7:10 (3-D) 9:15

friday 2 — thursday 8
***The Blues Brothers** Thur 8 **Hugo** (3-D) 10 a.m. (Sat only) 1, 3:45, 6:50, 9:40, **Arthur Christmas** 10:15 a.m. (Sat only) 12:35 (3-D) 2:50, 5:10 (3-D) 7:25 (3-D) 9:40 **The Muppets** 10:30 a.m. (Sat only) 1:10, 4, 6:40, 9:15, **Happy Feet Two** 10:15 a.m. (Sat only) 12:30 (3-D) 2:45, 5 (3-D) 7:15 (3-D) 9:30, **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1** 12:30, 1:15, 3, 4:15, 5:30, 7, 8, 9:30 (except Thu) 10 **Immortals** 2:50, 10, **J. Edgar** 10 a.m. (Sat only) 1, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30, **Jack and Jill** 10:30 a.m. (Sat only) 12:45, 3, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50, **Puss in Boots** 10:30 a.m. (Sat only) 12:45 (3-D) 3:10, 5:15 (3-D) 7:20 (3-D)

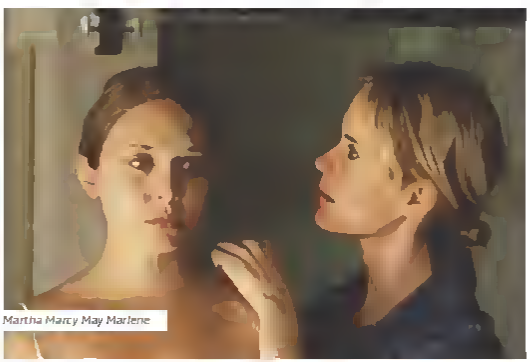
***See website for details.*

MAJESTIC 10

190 Boxwood St. (Maple Tree Place, Taft Corners) Williston, 878-2010 www.majestic10.com

wednesday 30 — thursday 1
Arthur Christmas 11:30 a.m. (3-D) 1:50, (3-D) 2:15, 4:10 (3-D) 4:50, 6:30 (3-D) 6:50 (3-D) **Hugo** (3-D) 11:45 a.m. 12:35, 2:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:35 **The Muppets** 11 a.m., 1:30, 4, 4:45, 6:50, 7:20, 9:20 **Happy Feet Two** (3-D) 11:15 a.m., 1:30, 4, 6:45, 9:10, **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1** 11:05 a.m. 12:15, 1:40, 3:05, 4:15, 6:15, 7:05, 9:45 **Immortals** (3-D) 7:15, 9:50 **J. Edgar** 3, 6:40, 9:45 **Jack and Jill** 12:20, 2:40, 7:20, 9:35 **Tower Heist** 12:30, 9:40 **Puss in Boots** (3-D) 12:05

friday 2 — thursday 8
Arthur Christmas 12:45, 1:25 (3-D) 4:10 (3-D) 5, 6:40 (3-D) 9 (3-D) **Hugo** 12:30 (3-D) 1:30, 3:20 (3-D) 4:30, 6:45 (3-D) 8 (3-D) 9:30 (3-D) **The Muppets** 12:35, 1:15, 3:50, 6:50, 8:30, 9:20 **Happy Feet Two** (3-D) 1:20, 3:40, 6:25, 8:45 **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1** 1:05, 3:40, 7:30 **Margin Call** 3:45, 8:40 **The Way** 1:25, 6:20



Martha Marcy May Marlene

MARQUIS THEATER

Main St., Middlebury, 388-4841

wednesday 30 — thursday 1
Arthur Christmas 7 **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1** 7 **Tower Heist** 7

friday 2 — thursday 8
Arthur Christmas Fri 6:30, Sat 1:30, 4, 6:30, Sun 1:30, 4, 7 Mon-Thu 7 **Happy Feet Two** Fri 6, Sat 1:30, 6, Sun 1:30, **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1** Fri 6:30, 9 Sat 1:30, 4, 6:30, 9, Sun 1:30, 4, 7 Mon-Thu 7 **Tower Heist** Fri 9, Sat 4, 9 Sun 4, 7 Mon-Thu 7

MERRILL'S ROXY CINEMA

222 College St., Burlington, 864-3456 www.merrillstheatres.net

wednesday 30 — thursday 1
Hugo 1, 3:55, 6:40, 9:10, **Like Crazy** 1:15, 3:10, 5, 7:20, 9:25, **Martha Marcy May Marlene** 1:20, 7:10 **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1** 1:05, 3:40, 7, 9:30, **J. Edgar** 3:50, 9:15 **Margin Call** 1:25, 3:35, 6:30, 8:45 **The Way** 1:10, 6:20 **50/50** 4, 9:20,

friday 2 — thursday 8
***Melancholia** 1:20, 4, 6:35, 9:05 ***Take Shelter** 1:30, 6:50 **Hugo** 1:10, 3:55, 6:40, 9:10 **Like Crazy** 1:15, 3:10, 5, 7:20, 9:25, **Martha Marcy May Marlene** 3:50, 9:20 **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1** 1:05, 3:40, 7, 9:30, **Margin Call** 3:45, 8:40 **The Way** 1:25, 6:20

PALACE CINEMA 9

10 Fayette Dr., South Burlington, 864-5610 www.palace9.com

wednesday 30 — thursday 1
***Bolshoi Ballet: Esmeralda** Wed 6:30 ***National Theatre Live: The Collaborators** Thu 7 **Arthur Christmas** 10:30 a.m. (Thu only) 1:30, 4, 6:35, 9 **The Descendants** 10:30 a.m. (Thu only), 12:45, 2, 3:20, 4:30, 6, 7:05, 8:30, 9:40 **The Muppets** 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 **Happy Feet Two** 1:50, 4:20, 6:50 (Wed only) **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1** 1:40, 3:30, 4:30, 6:05, 7:10, 8:35, 9:45, **J. Edgar** 1:25, 4:35, 7:45 **Jack and Jill** 1:35, 4:10, 6:40, 8:55, 9:05 (Thu only) **Tower Heist** 9:10 (Wed only) **Puss in Boots** 1:20

friday 2 — thursday 8
***The Met Opera: Live in HD: Godelinda** Sat. 12:30 ***St. Olaf Christmas Festival Live** Sun. 3:30 ***Chicago the Band Presents An Evening of Holiday Music & Greatest Hits** Tue. 7 ***Met Opera: Encore: Satyagraha** Wed. 6:30, Thu. 1 **Arthur Christmas** 1:30, 4, 6:30, 8:45 (except Wed) **Hugo** 10:30 a.m. (Thu only) 1:05, 3:55, 6:40, 9:20, **The Descendants** 10:30 a.m. (Thu only) 1, 2, 3:30, 4:30, 6, 7, 8:30, 9:30 **The Muppets** 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 **Happy Feet Two** 1:20, 3:40, 6:25 (except Wed) **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1** 1:10, 6, 3:50 (except Thu) 6:50, 9:25, **J. Edgar** 4:35, 7:45, **Jack and Jill** 1 (Sun only) 1:35 (except Sat, Sun) 4:10 (except Sat, Sun) 6:35 (except Tue) 8:50 **Tower Heist** 8:35 **Puss in Boots** 1:50,

***See website for details.*

PARAMOUNT TWIN CINEMA

241 North Main St., Barre, 479-9521, www.fgiltheaters.com

wednesday 30 — thursday 8
Arthur Christmas 1:30 (Sat, Sun only 3-D) 6:30, 8:45, **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1** 1:30 (Sat, Sun only) 6:15, 8

THE SAVOY THEATER

26 Main St., Montpelier, 229-0509, www.savoytheater.com

wednesday 30 — thursday 1
Jane's Journey 6, **The Way** 6:30, 8:40, **Margin Call** 8

friday 2 — thursday 8
***Pearl Jam Twenty** Sat. 7, **The Way** 1 (Sat, Sun only) 6:30, **Margin Call** 3:30 (Sat, Sun only) 8:40

***See website for details.*

STOWE CINEMA 3 PLEX

Mountain Rd., Stowe, 253-4678

wednesday 30 — thursday 8
Arthur Christmas Wed & Thu 7, Fri 7, 9, Sat 2:30, 7, 9, Sun 4:30, 7 Mon-Thu 7 **Happy Feet Two** Wed 8, Thu 7, Fri 7, 9, Sat, 2:30, 7, 9, Sun 4:30, 7 Mon-Thu 7 **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1** Wed & Thu 7, Fri 7, 9:15, Sat 2:30, 7, 9:15, Sun 4:30, 7 Mon-Thu 7

WELDEN THEATER

104 N. Main St., St. Albans, 527-7888, www.weldentheatre.com

wednesday 30 — thursday 1
Arthur Christmas 7, 9 **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1** 7, 9 **Jack and Jill** 7, 9

Full schedule not available at press time.

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NOW PLAYING « P.85

NEW ON VIDEO

30 MINUTES OR LESS★1/2 Jesse Eisenberg plays a pizza delivery boy pulled into a not-so-genius bank robbery plot in this action comedy from director Ruben (*Zombieland*) Fleischer. With Nick Swardson, Danny McBride and Aziz Ansari. (83 min. R)

ANOTHER EARTH★★★1/2 When an apparent twin of our planet appears in the sky, a young woman sees it as an opportunity to correct a terrible mistake in this indie drama from first-time director Mike Cahill. With Brit Marling and William Mapother. (92 min. PG-13)

CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS★★1/2 In his latest one-of-a-kind documentary, Werner Herzog explores the Chauvet cave of Southern France and trains his camera on a mazingly well-preserved artwork of the Paleolithic period. (95 min. PG)

FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS★★★ Two friends (Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis) decide to share their movie-star attractive bodies with each other and discover that — gasp! — the new relationship is more than they bargained for. With Patricia Clarkson, Jenna Elfman, Woody Harrelson and Emma Stone. Alex Gluck directed. (109 min. R)

THE FUTURE A thirtysomething couple confronts the idea of adult responsibility as they prepare to adopt a pet in this indie drama from artist/writer/filmmaker Miranda July, who stars with Hamish Linklater. (91 min. R. Read Margot Harrison's review this Friday on our staff blog, Blurt.)

ONE DAY★★1/2 Anne Hathaway and Jim Sturgess play a maybe-couple who spend a day together in 1988 and reunite on its anniversary for the next 20 years in this adaptation of David Nicholls' novel. With Patricia Clarkson. Lone Scherfig directed. (108 min. PG-13)

OUR IDIOT BROTHER★★★ In his latest comedy, Paul Rudd plays a go-with-the-flow type as a moony-eyed slacker who invades the lives of his three more uptight sisters. With Elizabeth Banks, Rashida Jones and Zooey Deschanel. Jesse Peretz directed. (90 min. R)

THE SMURFS★1/2 The little blue dudes accustomed to inhabiting a magical land of limited vocabulary find themselves in present-day NYC in this live-action/animation hybrid. With Hank Azaria, Neil Patrick Harris and Katy Perry contributing the voice of Smurfette. Raja Gosnell directed. (86 min. PG)

TUCKER & DALE VS. EVIL A pair of good-hearted rednecks find themselves in a terrible misunderstanding with some meddling college students in this horror spoof from director Eli Craig. With Tyler Labine, Alan Tudyk and Katrina Bowden. (88 min. R. Read Margot Harrison's review this Friday on our staff blog, Blurt.)



Are you anxious or jumpy? Withdrawn? Not enjoying things? Can't sleep?

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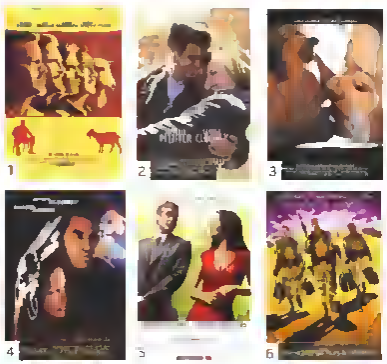
Weill Cornell Medical College IRB protocol no. 0802009646, approved 05/02/2008

THE ROXY CINEMAS MOVIE*quiz*

MERRILLTHEATRES.NET

ART BY RICK KRAMAR

KEY INGREDIENTS Key art is another term for a movie poster or one-sheet. What we've got for you this week are six examples minus their most important part. These pictures may not all be worth a thousand words, but coming up with their missing titles may just be worth dinner and a movie for two.



LAST WEEK'S WINNER: MIKE NAZARIAN

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS
1. *DISTRICT 9*
2. *10,000 B.C.*
3. *PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST*
4. *ERAGON*

For more film fun, watch "Screen Time" with Rick Kisonak on Mountain Lake PBS.

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Lake Champlain Waldorf School

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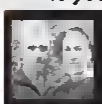
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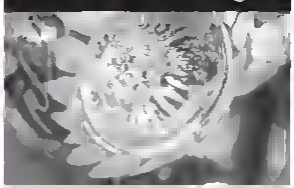
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Curses, Foiled Again

Police in Portland Ore., found it worth their while to raid a residence for suspected drug activity after they received fliers advertising "Heroin for sale" that listed the dealers names and address. Lt. Robert King said officers who searched the home found nearly 20 grams of marijuana, more than 10 grams of heroin, a sawed-off shotgun, thousands of dollars in cash and materials for a methamphetamine lab. They arrested six adults inside the home during the raid. (Portland's KGW-TV)

Sean Faulkner, 38, ordered a Reuben sandwich at a Pittsburgh, Pa., tavern and then ran off without paying according to police, who were able to apprehend him when he tried to make his getaway on a stolen forklift. Noting that Faulkner never made it out of the parking lot, officers said part of his trouble was not being able to put the forklift in reverse gear (Associated Press)

Forgotten Memories

Eight years after his wedding photos were delivered, minus the last 15 minutes, New Yorker Todd J. Remis wants H & H Photography to return the $4,100 he paid, plus pay him another $48,000 to restage the entire wedding and fly the participants to New York so another photographer can reshoot the missing scenes, including the bouquet toss. Since filing his suit in 2009, he and his bride, Milena Grzibovska, have divorced, and she is thought to have returned to Latvia. "It was unfortunate in its circumstances," Remis said, "but we are very much happy with the wedding event, and we would like to have it documented for eternity, for us and our families."

When the case finally was heard in October, Justice Doris Ling-Cohan of State Supreme Court in Manhattan dismissed most of the grounds, such as "infliction of emotional distress," but allowed it to proceed to determine whether there was a breach of contract. (*New York Times*)

Deflated Pleasure

The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that former Creek County District Judge Donald D. Thompson, who was caught using a penis pump to gratify himself while presiding over jury trials and served 20 months in prison for indecent exposure isn't entitled to his $7,789-a-month pension. "Court reporters observed the felonious exposure of Mr. Thompson's private parts, and testified to the fact during the criminal trial," the court wrote. "Those felonies violated Mr. Thompson's oath of office." (Oklahoma City's *Oklahoman*)

When Guns Are Outlawed

Having stabbed two previous defense attorneys with pencils, Joshua Monson, 28, was assigned a third one — and promptly stabbed him with a pen while listening to the prosecutor's opening statement. Refusing to declare a second mistrial, Snohomish County (Wash.) Superior Court Judge David Kurtz told Monson he had forfeited his right to an attorney and would have to defend himself. He ordered Monson strapped to a chair and denied him access to any writing implements. The judge then instructed the jury to ignore Monson's restraints, the attack and the defense attorney's sudden absence from the court. (Everett's *Herald*)

The Big O

A traditional football cheer at the University of Oregon has taken on new meaning for varsity players who elected to fulfill their foreign language requirement by learning sign language. Fans in the stands often show their support by using their hands to form the letter "O," for Oregon. But in their American Sign Language class, the players learned that the two-handed, spade-shaped sign represents the word vagina. "I did the 'O' once, and I never did it again," running back LaMichael James said. (*New York Times*)

Slightest Provocation

Police in Des Moines, Iowa, charged Jennifer Christine Harris, 30, with arson after they said she set fire to the garage of a former friend. The friend, Nikki Rasmussen, told investigators "the two are no longer friends due to a dispute over Facebook." Detective Jack Kamerick said, "Jen asked Nikki to create an event on Facebook for a party. Nikki did that. As the date for the party approached, there were a lot of 'declines' on Facebook. It was looking like the party might be a bust. The dispute apparently blossomed." (*Des Moines Register*)

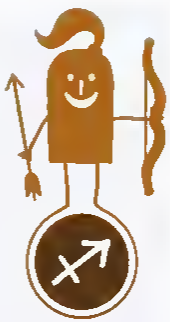
Charitable Giving

After a woman was murdered by her husband, her brother, Peter Harris, began a 150-mile walk to Edinburgh, Scotland, to honor her memory by advocating better treatment for crime victims and their families. He injured his foot during the trek and had to be hospitalized. He was released and finished the journey, but after returning home to Kent, his wound became infected. Doctors had to amputate his leg below the knee. Afterward, he declared that if his walk helped win support for victims' rights, "It means that, forever and a day, people will benefit from this, and that's more important than my right leg." (BBC News)

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY BY ROB BREZSNY

DEC. 7

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)



"Dear Mr. Brezsny: My name is Sonny McGee, and I own a website that caters to people who are addicted to playing poker. I'm a big fan of your horoscopes, and I'm wondering if you would like to advertise your work to our audience. Gamblers love astrology! Get in touch. —Sagittarian Wheeler Dealer." Dear Wheeler Dealer: Thanks for your interest, but I'll pass. I don't like to encourage anyone to focus their gambling urges on trivial matters like card games, sports events and lotteries. I prefer they direct that mojo to high-minded stuff like daring them selves to excel, pursuing exciting and idealistic adventures and doing brave things to help save the world. By the way, it's prime time for you Sagittarians to ratchet up your commitment to those kinds of gambles.

ARIES (March 21–April 19) This would be an excellent week to head down to Pucón, Chile, and hire a daredevil to fly you in a helicopter into the caldera of the active Villarrica volcano, whereupon you would bungee-jump out of the copter down to within 700 feet of the molten lava. If that's too extreme or expensive for your tastes, I urge you to come up with a milder adventure that will still bring you a close encounter with primal heat and light — and maybe even some divine fire.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20) As a mouse looks for food or shelter, it is flexible enough to fit through a hole as small as a quarter of an inch. You would really benefit from having a talent like that right now, Taurus. Of course, even if you are as slippery and pliable as you'll need to be, you will also have to be on high alert for the inviting possibilities, some of which may be brief or subtle. For example, let's say you spy an interesting-looking person with whom you'd love to chat. The window of opportunity may be open for less than 10 seconds. Seize that moment! Refuse to get hung up in shyness. Don't convince yourself that another chance will come along later.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20) One of my Gemini acquaintances, Tara, has been playing a slow-moving game of tag with three friends since they were all in second grade together. They're 27 years old now and still live in the same city. Currently Tara is "it," and has been so for quite some time. But she confided in me that she plans to make a move this week. She says she'll sneak up on one of the other players during his lunch break at work, tag him and run away before he can tag her back. I told her she's likely to meet with success, since this is an excellent time for you Geminis to gain an advantage in pretty much any kind of game you're playing.

CANCER (June 21–July 22) "Far more crucial than what we know or do not know is what we do not want to know," wrote philosopher Eric Hoffer. This is a good idea for you to contemplate right now. I realize it may be a challenge for you to figure out what you would rather not know and are afraid to know and might even be allergic to knowing. Still, I hope you'll make the effort. Maybe you could enlist a smart ally who'd be skillful in helping you uncover the taboo truth. And maybe you could formulate an intention to be as objective as you've ever been.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22) Biologists say there are 680 species of trees and shrubs in the U.S. and Canada. By comparison, Lambir Hills National Park on the island of Borneo is the home of 1,078 species on its 128 acres. I suspect you will feel right at home in places like Lambir Hills in the coming week, Leo. Your own creative urges will be running hotter than usual and are most likely to thrive in contexts that are themselves teeming with lush fertility and rich diversity. Please surround yourself with inspirational influences, thereby giving yourself the best possible chance to express yourself with vivid imagination.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) People I travel to faraway places to watch, in fascination, the kind of people they ignore at home wrote philosopher Dagobert D. Runes. Your assignment, Virgo, should you choose to accept it, is to refute that assertion. In other words, I'm inviting you to travel to all of your usual haunts and treat everything that happens there with the attitude of a first-time visitor. Just assume that the familiar people and places in your life have stimulating gifts to give and lessons to impart. Remember, though, they won't do that to the fullest unless you expect them to.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22) The human brain is composed of 30 percent protein and 70 percent fat. So it wouldn't be incorrect to refer to you as a fathead. In order to nourish your brain cells, you've got to eat foods that provide two essential fatty acids: your body doesn't manufacture omega-3 ALA and omega-6 LA. Since you're now in a "brain-building" phase of your astrological cycle, I urge you to get more than your minimum requirements of these basics. If I may be permitted to resurrect a now-out-of-fashion slang term, I suggest that you also expose yourself to a lot of extraordinarily phat sources of intellectual stimulation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21) The mawashi is the loincloth that Japanese sumo wrestlers wear while competing. It's rare for the garment to come off even in the heat of a match, but it did happen once in 2000 when a wrestler named Asanokiri suddenly found himself standing naked during his bout with Chiyohakuho. In conformity with sumo rules, Asanokiri was immediately disqualified. I don't think you're at risk for being rendered literally unclothed in the heat of a showdown or a plot twist, Scorpio. But I do advise you to take extra precautions to prevent a metaphorical version of that occurrence. Get your act very together and keep it very together.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19) I hope you're not so perversely attached to your demons that you're inclined to keep providing them with a comfortable home. Why? Because the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to permanently banish them from the premises. Yes, I know it may seem lonely at first without their nagging, disruptive voices chattering away in your head. But I really do encourage you to bid them adieu. By the way, as you plan your exorcism, you might want to include a humorous touch or two. They're allergic to satire and mockery, you know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18) The Beauvais Cathedral in northern France has been called "the most daring achievement of Gothic architecture. Its soaring facades, carved wooden doors, stained glass windows and astronomical clock demonstrate high artistry. There's a problem with the place, however — it has never been completed. Work began in the year 1225, and experts are still talking about how to solve certain ongoing difficulties with its construction. I don't know when this happy ending will occur, Aquarius, but I do expect that in 2012 you will be able to put the finishing touches on your own personal version of the Beauvais Cathedral. And now would be a good time to formulate definite plans to do so.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20) In my prayers, I've been negotiating with the Goddess to grant you the power to change the course of rivers, at least in a metaphorical way. I've also beseeched her to show you how to overthrow the Puppet Master and convert overwrought hawks into savvy doves. The Goddess seems to be seriously considering these appeals and has even hinted she might offer you instructions on how to shape a new Adam out of one of Eve's ribs, mythically speaking. In return, she does have one request: that you do what you can to make sure the sun rises on schedule for the next 10 days.

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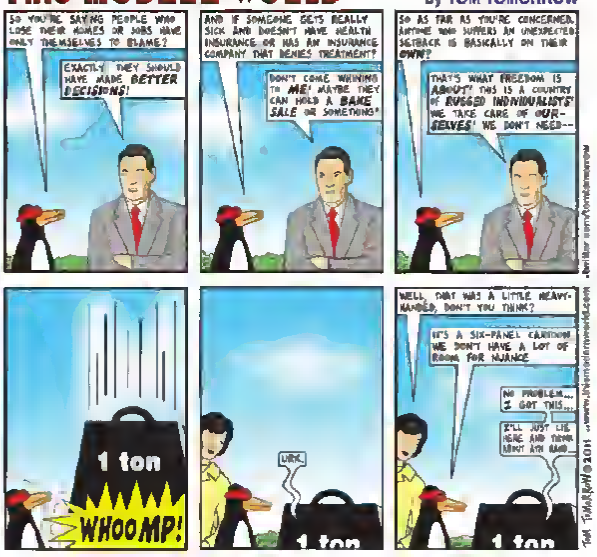


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THANK TO DANIEL, CHRISTINA & SIMON!!

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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Bill the Cockroach

HENRY GUSTAVSON



RED MEAT

pecking order puncture wounds

from the secret files of Max Cannon



TINY SEPUKU © 2011

DEAR TINY,
MY ELEVEN YEAR MARRIAGE IS COMING TO AN END. ANY TIPS ON GETTING BACK INTO THE DATING SCENE FOR THE NEWLY DIVORCED?

-EX-HUSBAND
DENVER, CO



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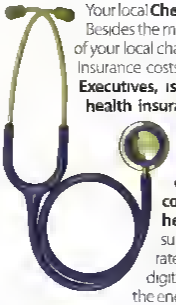
AMY FELL DOWN THE BASEMENT STAIRS YESTERDAY. IT STILL REALLY HURTS.



MORE FUN! STRAIGHT DOPE (P.25) NEWS QUIRKS (P.88) & FREE WILL ASTROLOGY (P.86)

CROSSWORD (P.C-5) & CALCOKU & SUDOKU (P.C-7)

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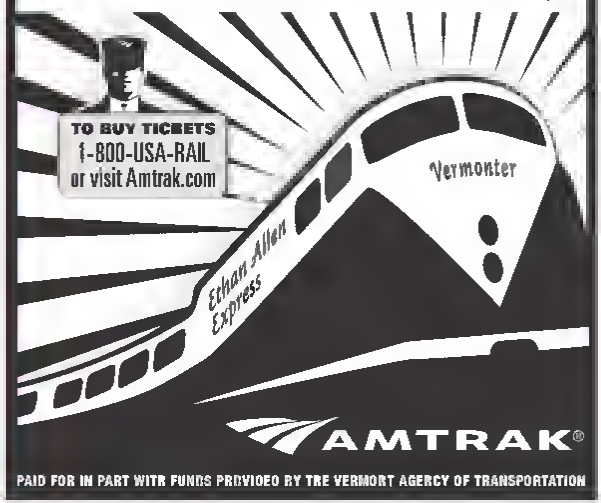
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WOMEN seeking MEN

SHYLY WAITING TO MEET YOU

Okay. I'm not really THAT shy. Get me talking about things that matter and I'm a regular chatterbox! But I love to listen and learn about other people and especially love to laugh. It's like fuel for me. I love to make people laugh as well and shared humor makes the strangest differences between people seem less consequential **positivepunk 51** ☐ **#122601**

SWEET SMART SPIRITED AND SPONTANEOUS

I am a mama dog owner, ad teacher, crafter, family girl, as well as a wonderful friend. I am looking for a man who is looking to be a family man seeing how I am already a family ma'am. I am looking for a companion, someone to laugh with, have a drink with, make dinner with and so much more. **sunnydays18 28** ☐ **#117861**

KILLER BRAIN. VERY LOOSE HAMSTRINGS

Funny, frisky, honest and conscious writer/speaker in a rock-solid open marriage. The lover slot has just become available, and I'm looking for a yummy dude or two. You're a healthy (physically and mentally) conscious (and not just after your a.m. coffee), creative bald, fearless friend with bennies. I'm a big fan of sensual exploration, wild abandon and chocolate chip cookies. **MuddyToes, 43,** ☐ **#117158**

HELLO? ANYBODY THERE?

This feels a little like looking for a gold ring in a late summer field of straw. So I'd feel pretty lucky to meet a kind man with a heart of gold, great smile and light in his eyes. If I found you, I'd keep you right here in my heart forever. Palms open. **irenicsoul, 54** ☐ **#111717**

HOMESTEAD HEROS

I'm a pretty down-to-earth earthy girl who is really into sustainability, political action, backpacking, nordic skiing, homesteading, wildlife permaculture and making vegan food that will knock your socks off! I could probably call myself an eco Marxist. I like guys who hold their own in the woods, but still enjoy the local cafe from time to time. I also love creativity. **Grassbetweentoes 23** ☐ **#122561**

HONEST, HARD-WORKING AND PLAYFUL!

I am an honest, hard-working mom. I am looking for a great man that is also hard working and would be proud to have me by his side. Also enjoy my alone time or time out with the girls. You hunt or enjoy hanging with the guys, that is great too. If you are going to the races, I want to go too! **vtlady46, 46,** ☐ **#122500**

BUBBLY, ENERGETIC, OUTGOING AND ADORABLE

Hi there. Single, professional and independent female with a loving and care-free spirit who finds laughter is the best medicine. My moral compass doesn't exactly point due north. Impossible is not in the vocabulary. Succeed at try again. Not looking for players or anyone with drama. Looking for similar traits in a mate. If this sounds like you, send me an email. **curlycute 23** ☐ **#122497**

SMELLY BOYS NEED NOT REPLY

I am a born and raised Vermonter. I like the outdoors, mostly up on the mountain with my board. I am very creative and fun. I like to curl up on the couch with someone and watch a good movie. I like to go sightseeing around my home state or on my motorcycle and would love company. **Snowrider84, 27** ☐ **#122420**

FUNNY AND FRIENDLY

My tag line says it well. I'm a funny and friendly person who's looking to meet new people. I put a lot of energy into my life and my friends and I'm hoping to meet someone who does the same. I love music, tailgating, sports, taking walks, good food and traveling. If you like these things too, we should talk. **meribiegirl 28** ☐ **#116698**

ATHLETIC, HAPPY AND FUN

I love sports. I could be called a professional weekend athlete. I am constantly doing something to fill my time, but that doesn't mean that I don't like nights to simply hang out. I love food, hanging with my family and friends. I'm looking to spend my time with someone who likes company but also understands the need for space. **jtrain, 28,** ☐ **#122409**

WOMEN seeking WOMEN

WELL HELLO

I am looking for women for friendship and conversation. I would be happy meeting someone and talking over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine. I am honest, funny and smart. I am looking for the same. **Gisti 43 #122543**

LOOKING FOR A THIRD

In a committed relationship for over 15 years. Would love to find a woman that doesn't mind my boyfriend being a part of the mix. Let's see where things go. **grasshopper3247 32, #122480**

SENSITIVE, TRUSTING AND HARDWORKING

Currently busy with working and such but in my time off I would like to meet someone else to spend my time with. Like to see where friendship could lead to. If you meet (or message) me, you will learn more about me. **RetrotatZgrl 26,** ☐ **#122429**

GIRL WITH FRECKLES LIKE STARS

Just moved back to the state. Looking for a butch girl to wine-and-dine with. Let's hang, go apple picking or meet for coffee, and see where things go! **freckleslikestars 22,** ☐ **#122208**

HEART, HANDS AND MORE

I love this life, seek to share learning, listening, rust, love. Am healthy, fit, blonde, blue, love pottery, inclusively science too. Love happens when it's meant to be. Ye never know til acquainting. I'm a morning girl, candles and cuddles, open minded and easygoing. I'm 53 earth years 28 spirit, have a heart of many lights and a passionate ear that wants to give. **xtaigirl 54** ☐ **#108439**

TNOSE SHOES ARE DEFINITELY &CURIOUS

I'm looking for a girl to wine and dine and see where the night leads. I've had my share of serious relationships, and right now I'm looking for someone I can connect and have fun with without a lot of pressure or expectations. **otak87 24** ☐ **#121077**

KIND, GENTLE, POSITIVE-MINDED WOMAN

42 y.o. life coach looking for dates, hopefully life partner. I'm positive-minded, kind, intelligent, compassionate woman who appreciates good things, laughter, fun, and quiet times, seeking similar qualities in partner. **Mayeroze 42** ☐ **#121010**

GOLDEN ZGAL SEEKING THE SAME

Well I am looking for that best friend who becomes something more, and a very long-term relationship. I am looking for someone with the same interests — not necessarily the same but close enough to have a few common areas. Perhaps the same values. Someone who will be there for me and I can be there for them. Let's meet and see where this leads. **silverwoman1818 65 #121222**

HANDSOME, CARING, OPEN-MINDED, SEXUAL KARMA

Looking for a down-to-earth girl to hang out with and maybe see where things go. I'm down with anything as long as you're open and honest. Not really looking for a relationship, but if the right girl comes along that could change. I'm very open-minded and restaurant but connection often lacks so I thought I would give Seven Days a whirl. **meinatac_Invt 35 #112750**

EASYGOING GUY

Basically I am looking for someone to start a connection with and form a relationship. I'm a pretty laid back guy who enjoys drawing, gaming and filming. In my own thoughts I'm kinda nerdy but I love it and I'm looking for someone who can appreciate that about me. **GoodSirSam 20 #122603**

HANDSOME, CARING, OPEN-MINDED, SEXUAL KARMA

Looking for a down-to-earth girl to hang out with and maybe see where things go. I'm down with anything as long as you're open and honest. Not really looking for a relationship, but if the right girl comes along that could change. I'm very open-minded and

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

MEN seeking WOMEN

LAID-BACK SPEED DEMON STRIKES

Warning: May contain some or all of the following ingredients: Tattoos, snow, long hair, fast rides, alternative opinions, ski wax, dog fur, Cholula hot sauce, personal explorations, silence, sandy beaches, turtle fur, animated conversations, observations of nature, laughing, laughing#37, seriously foolish behaviors, yin/yang, garlic, popcorn. **mtman2go 55** ☐ **#121944**

FROM HIS ONLINE PROFILE: Name your guiltiest, most lurid pleasure. If it's my pleasure I don't feel guilty a bit!

MEN seeking WOMEN

ALL THE WAY

I'm fun, kind, balanced, quirky and shy (but not when I'm on stage). I enjoy gathering wild edible and medicinal plants, wild crafting all sorts of fun and useful things, and just spending time outside. I've learned that the most nourishing relationships often take me by surprise, so surprise me! I might surprise you, too. **Deepgreen, 35** ☐ **#122620**

KIND, INTUITIVE, ZANY, INTELLECTUAL ARTIST

I try to keep if simple and use expression to bring forth light at the end of the scene in this play that is the world. I am jack of all trades, so for work I do odds to fill in between my regular jobs. I like playing music, CrossFit, dancing, singing, building, hiking, and foraging the human and natural spaces for inspiration. **artofwords 32,** ☐ **#118828**

KIND, CARING AND HONEST MAN

Here goes: I have been walking this beautiful Earth for many years now. I have walked it alone, and with some truly wondrous souls. I think I have several more decades of walking left. I love to laugh and make others laugh. One of my favadite places to be is down by the lit ervale early in the morning. Take care. **Injustme 50 #122606**

OTAS

I'm a fun, honest guy with A+ man skills. I work way too much and never get to spend enough time with growing family, friends or fulfilling outdoor addictions. I meet lots of people running a busy strive to be non-judgemental. Not really into overweight. Gal of me. Let's chill. **keepinitsimple1988 28 #122599**

MEN seeking MEN

COUNTRY GUY

Hey all. I am a 28 y/o EMT, firefighter and dairy farmer. I am on all around fun guy. I am looking to meet someone who likes going out and hanging with friends or just the quiet night in where I'll make dinner for the both of us. Not into the head games. Anything else you want to know hit me up. **lemmond, 28, #122542**

CUDDLES AND COFFEE

Where is my fuzzy Burlington hipster to keep me warm this winter? Caring, fun-loving, dirt poor (but insanely resourceful) educated adventurous coffee addict looking to share priceless moments and enjoy the simple things in life with another super sweet individual. **Jchag, 24,** ☐ **#122472**

NICE GUY NEXT DOOR

I'm the nice guy who lives next door. I like to experience life, whether it's hiking a mountain or boating on Lake Champlain. I enjoy drives in the country and trips to Boston. I've been looking for love in all the wrong places. I'm now making a conscious decision to find the right guy. Could that be you? **Dex, 44, #121600**

CURIOUS?

You read *Seven Days*, these people read *Seven Days* — you already have at least one thing in common!

All the action is online. Browse more than 2000 local singles with profiles including photos, voice messages, habits, desires, views and more.

It's free to place your own profile online. Don't worry, you'll be in good company.

See photos of this person online.

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NOT ON THE 'NET?

You can leave voicemail for any of the nice folks above by calling:

1-520-547-4556

MORE RISQUÉ? TURN THE PAGE

PERSONALS

For group fun, BDSM play, and full-on kink:
sevendaysvt.com/personals



WOMEN seeking

TAKES ORDERS WELL
Lonely sub in need of a master. Looking to please you and be rewarded when I do a good job. Love lingerie and high heels, as well as public places. Wanna play? **ExtraGirlieSub 33 #122618**

GOOD TIMES TO BE HAD
I'm looking for a casual thing. Sex, sleeping, foreplay, cuddling, oral, movies, drinking, hanging out. One, some or all of the above. Not sure what to expect from this, but message me and we'll see what happens. **c_ullr 23 #122610**

BUSTY FRIEND WITH BENEFITS
I'm 20 and looking to branch out from my current repertoire. I'm bisexual and looking for a friend with benefits from either gender. I'm relaxed and easy to get along with and looking for someone I can hang out with and fool around with when we feel like it. I'm up for pretty much anything, so hit me up. **TastingTheWaters 20 #122455**

BI SEXUAL FEMME SEEKS SAME
I'm looking for open-minded friends to create fun, quality relationships with. If you like to go out on the town or enjoy a wild time at home, then look no further. You must be STD- drug-free respectful and discreet. If you are a woman/women, or a "couple" (men/women) and are interested in the wilder side of life, lets get together! **whynotbeyourself 42 #122313**

NAUGHTY LOCAL GIRLS
WANT TO CONNECT WITH YOU
1-888-420-BABE
69¢

PANTY FETISH
I have a secret. I have a panty fetish and I would like to share it with you. I also like to do lots of phone play and pics. I am 27 yrs. married and very discreet. **nikkiskiss84 26 #122205**

SHY FUNNY AND CREATIVE
I am looking to meet a lady (butch or femme, does not matter) to start a friendship, with the possibility of a relationship. **vttat2bigf 28 #121924**

SWEET AND INNOCENT
I may look sweet and innocent, I am the type of girl you can bring home to mom and dad. But in the bedroom or other places I can get a little freaky. Looking for some discreet fun, men ages 25 to 40. **haileysmammy 26 #118803**

AGED TO PERFECTION
Like a fine wine, some things just get better with age! I am a mature, sexy woman looking to start over. I was married to my late husband all my life and am looking for new excitement. It's never too late! Teach me how to...as the kids say...dougie. **silverfoxx 63 #121512**

NOT PHONE FANTASIES WOMAN COUPLE
I am an experienced 70's hot, sexy woman looking for a woman to talk with me and my Man to enjoy phone fantasies. Someone who will do a 3way call at no expense to you. So have your vib or dildo and join us for pleasure that we make for ourselves. **mymomadoll 73 #121287**

WHAT'S YOUR HOROSCOPE?
Did you know Scorpio is the most sexual of signs? Looking for some NSA summer fun. Don't be afraid to contact me for a walk on the wild side! **sexiscorpio69 26 #121339**

MEN seeking

MUTUAL ORAL FIXATION
Playmates/lover. Very passionate. LOVE to please! No pain, extreme hedonist. I think oral is the most intimate sex. If you don't want to swallow, you don't understand the real passion and pleasure of oral sex. **muskeman69 52 #70923**

LOORING FOR DISCREET FUN
Recently separated, looking for casual encounters. Good-looking, average-built man, mid-thirties. **CaligulaCaesar 34 #122621**

EASYGOING GUY
Easygoing guy exploring possibilities of on-line dating site. Enjoy giving massages. If interested maybe we can discuss possibilities. **dick808 61 #122590**

TRY ANYTHING ONCE OR TWICE
Bi curious male looking for NSA encounters with both sexes. Discresion is a must! Your pic and what you want in a message will get my pic in return and a better explination what this is all about. **letsseewhathappens 28 #122583**

ATHLETIC FRIEND WITH BENEFITS
Mid 20's looking to find someone for mutual sexual satisfaction. I'm easygoing, laid back, and up for anything. I love women of all shapes, ages and sizes. Love oral sex and love returning the favor. **LookingforPlay 26 #122581**

WHATEVER YOU WANT
Looking to just have fun with no strings attached. Let's talk and see what you like. I want to do everything you want and be so dirty. **ExistentialAct 18 #122571**

SANTA NEEDS A NAUGHTY GIRL
A 50-plus real whiskered Santa Claus looking for a naughty girl, mom or grandmother that wants to get on Santa's nice list. **santaclaus50 52 #122550**

CURIOUS?
You read Seven Days, these people read Seven Days — you already have at least one thing in common!
All the action is online. Browse more than 2000 local singles with profiles including photos, voice messages, habits, desires, views and more.
It's free to place your own profile online. Don't worry, you'll be in good company.
See photos of this person online
Hear this person's voice online.
NOT ON THE 'NET?
You can leave voicemail for any of the kinky folks above by calling:
1-520-547-4568

Pole Dance in Vermont
Learn about pole dance field trips and staying HOT this winter!
PoleSkivvies.com/vermont
PoleSkivvies

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NAUGHTY
It has been too long since I've tried something new. Do you want to play? I'm you're massage therapist and things get naughty. Or perhaps I'm a doctor in Victorian England, trying to cure your hysteria through genital stimulation. Exhibitionism? Voyeurism? I've got a fantastic imagination. You tell me what you want and I'll spin the story. **LordG 38 #119275**

DISCREET AND HEALTHY GENTLEMAN
I am a handsome, in-shape gentleman with a healthy sexual appetite seeking women for friendships and sexual encounters. Not adverse to a long term relationship should one come along, but see my role as a friend and casual sex partner especially for those women who require total descretion due to personal circumstances. **BVT2012 55 #122540**

SEXTACULAR
Hello. I'm looking for some discreet fun. There are a few things I haven't been able to try and would like to find some interested ladies. Let me know if you're interested. **jonny51 27 #122611**

FROM HIS ONLINE PROFILE My biggest turn on is... heels or boots and black hair

KINK OF THE WEEK:

MEN seeking

SENSATION SEEKER
I've decided life is too short to miss out on things I'm curious about. **lookinfun 38, #122526**

OMG TILLY WAS A CANDYCORN!
And Matthew was Curious George. Thanks for the funnest party of my life! So sweet. I do ndpe to do it all again! **LEC4ME, 23, #122524**

NO STRINGS ATTACHED HOT SEX!
Looking for a woman or multiple women looking for some NSA sex. I'm open to anything. Shoot me a message and we can figure something out! **Jahern11 20 #122520**

JUST LOOKING FOR GREAT SEX
Just here for sex. I am great at sucking and my bum is great for a nice rough pounding. No small talk, I just need it in me. **str8bttmboi 28, #122519**

UNREMARKABLE HEADLINE
Looking for casual sex, friends with benefits etc. Nothing serious or committed. **anerymous314, 27 #122499**

LOOKING FOR LATEX FANS
Hi. Just looking for any people (preferably ladies) who are into latex. I am new at it, but I am a huge fan. Looking for discreet play and fun, no commitments. Please let me know if you are out there! **ivanatremor 40 #122478**

OTHER seeking

LOOKING TO PLAY
I'm bi and he's a straight trans guy looking to bring another partner into our bed. We're in a committed relationship, only seeking occasional play. Seeking a women for me to play with while he watches (and maybe joins a little too) or another FTM for him to share me with. Come play with us, we can host. **Meow91 20 #122576**

EXTREMELY HORNY COUPLE
Horny couple looking to add a third in our active sex life. We are very clean and want the same. 420 friendly. Can host. Hoping this is you. Will send pictures. **calaCly 37 #122567**

COUPLE LOOKING FOR HOT LOVING
Couple looking for lady for threesome opportunities with the possibility of a relationship for her (f/f). Would possibly accept a NSA situation. **Skins8587 24 #122492**

TOGETHER IN VT
Slightly submissive couple looking for dominant males within reasonable distance from given location. We are interested in real-time fun. We both enjoy verbal commands. He is an experienced bottom and she is a first timer. There will be no one-on-one contact AT ALL. Safe and consensual is a very firm requirement. **togetherinvt 47 #122405**

SEEKING SEXY EDUPLE FOR POLY-PLAY
Deeply committed couple seeking men and women for exploration and uninhibited sexual play. Us: fit, fun, STD-free professionals with full-time jobs and diverse sexual fantasies. You: stable, sane, sexy, STD-free, open to polyamorous possibilities. We are looking to meet an adventuresome couple to have fun with in many different positions. Replies must include recent pics. **creative_connections 45 #122302**

MASSAGE, CONNECTION, COMFORT, KISSING, ORGASMS
Massage explores pleasure with or without stepping into the sexual. We'd like to massage a woman, man or couple at your level of comfort. Softness of skin, the bliss of massage. We offer non-sexual, sensual massages or ones that progress to orgasmic bliss. Four-hand massage is an amazingly sensuous path to sensual bliss, or all the way to orgasm. **Lascivious 57 #117437**

CUM PLAY WITH US
We are a fun, attractive couple who like to play with others from time to time. We have played together and alone with both singles and couples. Our lives have been over-the-top interesting with travel, outdoor recreation and a wide circle of friends. Join us! **TwoForYou2011, 57 #121917**

TOO INTENSE?
GO BACK 1 PAGE

ispy

If you've been spied, go online to contact your admirer!

sevendaysvt.com/personals

WEDNESDAY NIGHT OUTSIDE CHARLIE O'S

We sat outside Charlie O's and you asked me for a cigarette. You beautiful brunette that completely caught my eye. We chatted for a bit and you kinda had me speechless. You seem really cool and I hope I run into you again. **When: Wednesday November 23, 2011. Where: Charlie O's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909745**

ECHO CENTER

Woman with long black hair, blue eyes wearing white shirt, blue jeans and black heels. November 12, 2011. I am the male who was wearing a red sweatshirt and blue jeans. I have black hair and wear glasses. We met by the snake exhibit and there was a spark. **When: Saturday November 12, 2011. Where: Echo Center. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909744**

HAWT 98 BIKING TO MUDDY'S

I conventionally drafted behind you 'til our chat at a red light on Pearl. It was cold and you weren't wearing UGGs(!) but seems like you're still one alt. Did my bicycle stick figure attached to my numerous tates turn you off? Should I have worn a turtleneck instead of a neon jacket? Heller batk cnz we should really discuss what's relevant. **When: Saturday November 12, 2011. Where: Muddy's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909743**

SEE THIS BEETUS?

Mnmwah wants her pupwel. Scooping, rooting and burrowing are on the menu. **When: Wednesday November 23, 2011. Where: Battpit. You: Man. Me: Woman. #909742**

TESSA FROM PDF

Hey I thought we clicked and would keep talking. Then you canceled your account. Maybe I'm not so great at reading into what women are thinking, but I thought I would love to talk to you again and hang out" meant just that. Haha, get back to me? **When: Monday, November 21, 2011. Where: PDF. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909741**

CITY MARKET WINE SECTION

Saturday you (medium length blonde hair) gave me (short mnspiked mowhawk) great advice the McManis was delicious and perfect for my beef stew. Maybe we could share that nice Italian bottle you were pointing out sometime? **When: Saturday, November 19, 2011. Where: City Market wine section. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909740**

TIP-TOPPED BY HEADY TOPPER!

From salt pork to Thai food to beer you had me at first glimpse. In the meat department! Thank you for an amazing second date and making yourself transportable to transport me to amazing northerly beer destinations. The surprise was really sweet. Round three on me? **When: Saturday, November 19, 2011. Where: Espresso Bueno-Rock Art-Alchemist. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #909738**

NORTHFIELD SAVINGS BANK SHELBURNE RD

To the teller with blue eyes and dark hair: Love your smile. I don't go to your branch often but when I do its a pleasure to see you☺. Maybe one day I'll get up the nerve to ask you to hang☺. Enjoy the holidays. **When: Monday, November 21, 2011. Where: Northfield Savings Bank Shelburne Rd. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #909738**

BUY-CURIOUS?



If you're thinking about buying a home, see all Vermont properties online:

sevendaysvt.com/homes

GLASSES AND OCTOPUS TSHIRT

Can you believe it's been nine years? Thanks for being my friend, my co-parent, my partner in crime. I am so lucky to have found you. Happy anniversary. **When: Wednesday November 30, 2011. Where: Sammy's Roumanian, NYC. You: Man. Me: Woman. #909737**

SOARDINVT

It was nice to get the messages. Go into my account. Click "view/edit blocks." You should be okay from there. Good luck. **When: Monday, November 21, 2011. Where: On here. You: Man. Me: Woman. #909736**

GUY AT DOBRA WITH MACBOOK

You were sitting by the window and we looked at each other as I was walking in looking for my group of loud Asians. Your curly brown hair wearing a Marmot fleece. Me: petite with long dark, curly hair. Would love to get tea with you sometime. **When: Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Where: Dobra Tea. You: Man. Me: Woman. #909735**

SKINNY PANCAKE IN THE RAIN!

Remember the walk by the lake late one chilly afternoon? Dashed between raindrops to the Skinny Pancake! Warm and toasty inside and out! **When: Friday October 21, 2011. Where: Burlington. You: Man. Me: Woman. #909734**

WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOU?

Every time I see you I feel like you are undressing me with your eyes. I know I am undressing you with mine! I do try to avoid you sometimes when I see you in the store I will not look at you but I KNOW you see me. **When: Monday, November 21, 2011. Where: Hannaford. You: Man. Me: Woman. #909733**

RED CROSS CHARLIE LAST THURSDAY

Charlie on the Red Cross bus. Sitting with you in a tiny room was surprisingly comfortable. If you're available, here coffee with me and I'll tell you more about Ireland. **When: Thursday, November 17, 2011. Where: In a tiny room. You: Man. Me: Woman. #909732**

PATIENCE IN SEARCH OF OXYGEN

When we are together we breathe each other in so deep and it's hard to let go and leave. Patience will lead us to each other. Until then breathe with me. **When: Saturday, November 19, 2011. Where: BTV. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909731**

HOME DEPOT HOTTIE!

You: blond bombshell in orange HD T-shirt. Me: charming gentleman talking to paint-desk salesman. Would here asked for your number but you said your phone was broken ☺. Wishing I had thought of asking you out before I left! Meet up for drinks sometime? **When: Tuesday, November 15, 2011. Where: Home Depot. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909730**

HUNGTAOS SATUSDAY NIGHT HOTTIE!

We were both waiting for our food and exchanging smiles and eye contact. I could feel the energy. Wish I had given you my number or brought you home for dessert. Hope you see this. **When: Saturday, November 18, 2011. Where: Burlington. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909729**

SMILING/NVERMONT

You sent me a note. I replied, but since you don't actually HAVE a profile, I'm not sure if you got it. Let me know if you did. Otherwise, I'll just assume you're a scammer. **When: Wednesday, November 16, 2011. Where: Two to Tango. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909728**

TAVERN AT THE INN AT ESSEX

You with your short black hair sitting next to me at the bar with maybe your husband? You asked if I was with the Scrabble tournament just after you asked if you were squishing me in my seat. Just before I left we met once more as I directed you to the bathroom. I should have directed you to the bedroom. **When: Saturday, November 19, 2011. Where: Dinner Sat. night at the tavern. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909727**

SLONDISH BOASDER WITH FOUR BOYS

If your last name was attached to luck, the rest is easy. Hope to hear from you again soon. **When: Saturday, November 19, 2011. Where: On here. You: Man. Me: Woman. #909726**

SOARDINVT

I miss hearing from you too, but I can't respond, silly. You accidentally hit the block future communication. (. **When: Saturday, November 19, 2011. Where: On here. You: Man. Me: Woman. #909725**

MARY AT COSTCO

When I saw you at the door. It was like yesterday, though it had been many years. When I said "I remember you," it took you by surprise. The last time we saw each other we were both with someone else. If you're single now, want to meet somewhere outside work? **When: Friday, October 21, 2011. Where: Costco, and my dreams. You: Woman. Me: Man. #909724**

Your guide to love and lust...

mistress maeve



Dear Mistress,

I've been doing the online dating thing for about six months. I'm having fun, meeting nice people, but nothing serious yet. I'm looking for your validation on my point of view that first dates should be brief encounters to see if there's any chemistry, not daylong activities. I've had a couple of guys suggest first-date excursions like going to see a concert in Montréal or heading down to a Patriots game. Both activities sounds fun, but that would make our first date at least six hours long. I think that's crazy! What if we don't get along? Then we're stuck with each other the better part of a day!

I want to know what you think, Mistress, because a couple of friends and my mother have expressed that they think I'm being close minded and just looking for something "wrong" with these guys. Please tell me your thoughts, because at this point, I even think dinner and movie is too much commitment for the first date.

Thanks,
Short and Sweet

Dear Short and Sweet,

I'm with you. The best first dates are like building blocks. Start with one block, a drink or a cup of coffee, to see if conversation and chemistry flow. If things go well, add another block. "Hey, I know we said we'd meet up just for drinks, but are you hungry? I know a great sushi place." If dinner is a smash hit, add a third block: "A killer band is playing around the corner, feel like catching the show with me?" If the night builds slowly, it takes the pressure off of both daters from the start. Just be careful not to add too much too soon — some blocks should be saved for at least the second date, if you catch my drift.

All that said, don't discount those grandiose guys — they're simply trying to impress you with fun, imaginative date ideas. Instead of kicking them to the curb, tell them that while you'd be totally down for a concert in Canada or a fun day of football, you'd prefer to meet up and see if you click before planning a day trip. They'll likely appreciate your sensibility, as they won't be betting time and resources on a first date that could flop.

Long and Strong,
mm

Need advice?
Email me at **mistress@sevendaysvt.com** or share your own advice on my blog at **sevendaysvt.com/blogs**

Give delicious!



Healthy Living boasts a bounty of edibla gift ideas for tha food lovers on your list. We're your destination for everything sweet, savory, aromatic and bubbly. Food inspiration and passion ara abundant at Healthy Living, so stop by for e world of gift idees!

SOME LOCAL GIFT IDEAS...

Shalburna Farms · Shalburna, VT
2-Yaar-Old Farmhousa Chaddar Chaasa

Squara Daal Farm · Waldan, VT
Pura Varmont Mapla Syrup

Honey Gardans · Farrisburg, VT
Apitherapy Raw Honey

Lincoln Paak Vinayard · Naw Havan, VT
Marquette 2010

Fat Toad Farm · Brookfiald, VT
Vanilla Baan Caramal

Laughing Moon Chocolatas · Stowa, VT
Signature Chocolate Bars

healthy living
Market and Café

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